

THE TIMES

No. 65,779

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Gay sex claims overshadow Tory election campaign launch

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, JOANNA BAILE AND PHILIP WEBSTER

ALLEGATIONS of an illegal relationship with a homosexual teenager yesterday put the future of a Conservative MP in doubt and marred John Major's launch of an election campaign that could last up to four months.

After Mr Major unleashed a furious attack on the opposition parties' plans for constitutional change, senior Conservatives were last night urging Jerry Hayes, MP for Harlow, to go quickly and quietly to avoid further embarrassment to the Prime Minister's crusade to put the family at the heart of Tory policy-making.

Mr Hayes, 43, who is married with two children, denied any sexual relationship with Paul Stone, who was 18 when their friendship began. A constituency official disclosed that Mr Hayes had confessed to him that he had been in danger of developing "unhealthy" feelings for the teenager.

Mr Stone is understood to have received £75,000 for selling his claims to the *New of the World* through the publisher Max Clifford. The paper first learnt of the story on Christmas Eve. The relationship was alleged to have begun in 1992 when the homosexual age of consent was 21.

The episode is an embarrassment to the Tories who will today launch an expensive advertising campaign against Labour, with the slogan "New Labour, New Failure". The theme is that a Labour government "would all end in tears".

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said: "I said a couple of



A recent photograph of Jerry Hayes with his wife, Alison, and their children, Lawrence and Francesca. The MP denied having a sexual relationship with a teenage youth

days ago that John Major's new push on family values was bound to end in tears and it has."

Harlow is one of the Tories' more vulnerable seats — Mr Hayes had a majority of 2,940 at the last election — and constituency officers are to meet the MP shortly to discuss his future. A full meeting of the executive committee will be held in two weeks.

Mr Hayes is not a minister and his fate therefore rests with the association rather than with the Cabinet or Conservative Central Office. But senior Tories said that

he would best serve Mr Major by not standing at the election and allowing his constituency to pick a replacement. This is what ministers expect to happen.

Mr Major declined to comment on the allegations when he began his new year fightback on BBC Television's *Breakfast With Frost*. The Prime Minister mounted a fierce onslaught against Labour and the Liberal Democrats after indications yesterday that they were close to a deal on constitutional reform, including abolition of voting rights for hereditary peers and

something wholly unknown and inexperienced?

David Roberts, chairman of the Harlow association, confirmed that he had requested a meeting with Mr Hayes but he voiced his support for the MP. "I spoke briefly to Jerry last night. The comments that I have had from other members have been very supportive. He is a very good constituency MP and he works very hard for the town."

"People do have feelings for other people. In this case, Jerry said he accepted that those feelings were perhaps in danger of

becoming unhealthy and it stopped at that point. There was nothing sexual."

Simon Carter, chairman of the Conservative political committee at Harlow and former leader of the Tory group on the district Council, said: "With John Major's recent announcement about family values, I was not surprised that one of the tabloids came up with something like this. Jerry says nothing untoward happened and we believe him."

Pact negotiations, page 2
Career in jeopardy, page 3

Sinn Fein leaders in IRA video

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A NEW IRA propaganda video — designed to bolster support for the terrorists' campaign of violence after the collapse of their ceasefire — features footage of Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness.

The two men, who have consistently denied that they are IRA leaders, appear on the 55-minute video sandwiched between lengthy shots of masked terrorists firing automatic rifles and mortar bombs.

Mr Adams, 48, president of Sinn Fein, is shown giving a clenched fist salute at a republican rally in Belfast in a section of the video covering the 1994 IRA ceasefire. He and Mr McGuinness, 46, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, then make two further appearances in a section of the tape in which they blame Britain for the collapse of the ceasefire in February last year. The producers of the tape, entitled *IRA in our Streets* and *in our Countryside*, pirated interviews with the Sinn Fein leaders from the BBC and Ulster Television.

The disclosure of the tape's existence by *The Times* led to calls last night for Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness to be arrested and charged with IRA membership. Peter Robinson, the deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists, said the Government had no excuse for failing to crack down on the two men because the video clearly identified them as IRA leaders.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Mandela ousted as student bar hero

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

NELSON MANDELA is losing his status as an icon for youth. Two-thirds of student unions have dropped his name from their bars or buildings in favour of more trendy heroes, including Des Lynam, Freddie Mercury and Oasis.

At the peak of his fame as a *cause célèbre*, the South African President was adopted by at least 30 universities. But he has been dropped in favour of Des Lynam, the BBC presenter, as the figurehead of Warwick University's bar as students want to attract more sports players.

Both Coventry and Leicester universities now have Oasis instead of Mandela bars. Ryan Fay, president at Coventry, said students had not forgotten Mr Mandela. He said there was "a time and a place for politics" and Oasis, the band of the decade, was a more suitable name for a bar.

The Nelson Mandela Ballroom at Durham University was renamed after Margot Fonteyn two years ago and a Mandela room at Exeter has become the Freddie Mercury Suite in honour of the late lead singer of Queen.

Mr Mandela's name now survives at only 11 student venues, and several of them are likely to expunge him this year.

Some students believe idealism is being replaced by business realities. Tom Wilcox, vice-president at Queen Mary's College, London, said students were more concerned with standards of service, not political issues. "That means sponsorship, and naming a

room after a sponsor is the best way to generate revenue."

But there is some hope for a comeback by the South African leader at Oxford, where the Mandela bar was recently restored by New College after several years as the Joanna Lumley Room. At Bristol, students defeated a motion to rename its Mandela Bar as the Noel Edmonds Imbibing Suite. Mandela is also preserved at the National Union of Students' headquarters in London. A spokeswoman said: "There are no plans to change the name of the building. Nelson Mandela was very important to the student movement. He is our honorary president."

Leading article, page 19



... left at the Nelson Mandela building, no. the Joanna Lumley — oops, no, the Oasis building

Henman loses to Courier in final

Tim Henman reached an ATP Tour final for the first time, in the Qatar Open in Doha, but was beaten by Jim Courier, the former world No 1, 7-5, 6-7, 6-2.

To put Henman's achievement into perspective, Courier, who has four grand-slam singles titles to his name, represented Henman's first serious challenge of the week. However, Henman appears to have lost none of the momentum he gathered in 1996. Page 25

Vatican apologises to Jews for 'errors'

The Vatican is to apologise formally for the "anti-Semitic errors" of Catholicism as part of an attempt to reconcile Christianity, Judaism and Islam in time for the millennium.

A commission will examine the persecution of Jews by the Inquisition and Catholic attitudes towards Nazism. Page 9

Belgrade paralysed

President Milosevic appeared to have lost control of the Serbian capital Belgrade as a cavalcade of cars and more than 100,000 pro-democracy demonstrators paralysed the city. Page 8

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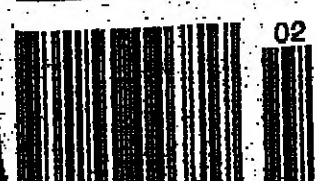
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Actors in Tory tear-jerker campaign are sworn to secrecy

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE "real people" at the heart of the Tories' new multi-million-pound poster campaign are not real at all, but are actors who have been forced by the party to sign a written undertaking not to reveal their true identities.

Stung by the publicity over their "Demon eyes" campaign last August, the Conservative Party and its advertising agency, M&C Saatchi, have gone to great lengths to ensure that the people used in their five new posters — to be unveiled today under the theme that a Labour government "would all end in tears" — remain nameless faces. The

"Demon eyes" campaign featured a picture of Tony Blair, the Labour leader, with two sinister eyes superimposed on his face.

The actor whose eyes were used in the poster subsequently said he would have turned down the job had he known it would be used in a "dirty tricks" campaign. The Advertising Standards Authority ruled that the poster was offensive to Mr Blair and asked the Conservatives to withdraw it.

A Tory insider said yesterday: "In the process of choosing the people used in the new ads, we made it clear to



One of the posters, shown in *The Mail on Sunday*

them that it would be for a Tory party campaign. They were shown everything all the way through. It was made a condition of the work that they would not reveal who

they were and we would not give out their identities.

One of the five posters shows a black and white photograph of a couple with haggard and downcast faces

holding a baby. A red tear trickles down the woman's face to illustrate the tears that supposedly would be shed under a Blair government. The slogan, emblazoned in red, reads: "New Labour ... New Failure".

The posters, to be splashed across 3,000 sites throughout the country over the next three weeks, mark the start of the Tory party's final big advertising push before the general election campaign. It comes 12 months to the day after the "Labour's tax bombshell" campaign, is considered within the party to have been a great success.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said that the poster of the young couple "bordered on the edge of negative advertising". He added: "If the Tories want to debate whether that young couple would be better off after 18 years of Tory power, then we will be happy to debate issues. Eighteen years has left too many young couples in poverty and insecurity, with no possibility of change."

The man behind the latest Tory campaign is Steve Hilton, 27, who works for Lord Saatchi. Mr Hilton, who was educated at public school and Oxford, is a keen fan of the pop groups Pulp and Oasis and refuses to wear a tie, even on visits to Downing Street. Born in London, he spent

several years of his childhood in Hungary, where his late father was a professional sportsman, having been goalkeeper for the national ice hockey team.

He worked as a researcher for Conservative Central Office before the last general election and was recruited by Lord Saatchi shortly afterwards. In addition to working on commercial accounts such as British Airways, he has also been involved in political campaigns in Russia, Ireland and Portugal.

□ The brewer Guinness has withdrawn an advertisement which ran in the men's magazine *FHM*, showing a masked man in a leather jacket hang-

ing by chains from a ceiling under a portrait of John Major and next to a bowl of oranges. The opposite page carried the slogan: "A little bit of what you fancy does you good."

The picture could be seen as a reference to the death of Stephen Milligan, Tory MP for Eastleigh, who was found dead in his west London flat in 1994 with an orange in his mouth and a plastic bag over his head.

A spokesman for the Guinness group said that an internal inquiry would be held. "This particular advertisement causes offence and it is regrettable that it was ever shown in the first place."

Ashdown demands Labour support for electoral reform

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY ASHDOWN demanded yesterday that the Labour leader commit himself to arguing for electoral reform.

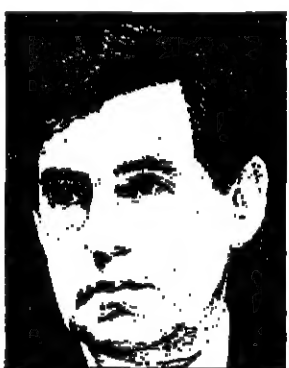
Mr Blair's aides dismissed the Liberal Democrat leader's challenge to him to back electoral reform as the key to agreement between the two parties on constitutional change. They said that Mr Ashdown had "no right to lay down terms" and that the Labour leadership would not go into the election "with our hands tied by the Liberal Democrats".

Mr Ashdown indicated that his party's support for Labour's programme of constitutional reforms depended on Mr Blair pledging that he would support electoral reform in the referendum on the issue that Labour has said it would hold. Mr Blair has opposed outright proportional representation, but has left open the possibility of committing himself to more modest reforms.

Talks between the two parties have brought them close to agreement on central areas of constitutional change, such as

devolution, reform of the House of Lords, a Freedom of Information Act and parliamentary procedure.

"We can't have a package of constitutional change unless that includes electoral reform to which, if we are to get it through, all parties must be committed," Mr Ashdown told ITV's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme. "Constitutional reform has to be taken as a whole," he said. "This isn't a



Brown: previously opposed reforms

'pick-n-mix' arrangement." Senior Liberal Democrats said last night that the talks would founder if Mr Blair refused to take a more positive stance on electoral reform.

However, Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, who has opposed electoral reform, took a more conciliatory line than that of Mr Blair's spokesman. Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World this Weekend*, Mr Brown said: "What Tony Blair is going to say or recommend in that referendum [on electoral reform] is a matter that he has not commented on and it would be wrong to assume that he has made his position known."

Senior Liberal Democrats suggested that Mr Blair might commit himself to electoral change to avoid the confusion over proportional representation that overshadowed the final days of Neil Kinnock's 1992 election campaign.

The two parties cited the talks on constitutional reform as an example of consensus politics which, they claimed,

the Tories had ignored. John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said Mr Blair was "rattled and disconcerted" by the talks between Labour and the Liberal Democrats. "He is totally out of step with public opinion. People want more decisive government and stronger individual rights and John Major will lose by going

against these ideas," he said. "Mr Major seems to want to run Britain as a one-party state with parliamentary accountability further declining and sleaze growing."

However, both Labour and Liberal Democrats emphasised that their talks on implementing constitutional reform had yet to reach final agree-

ment. The eight negotiators will resume talks this week, with the aim of reaching agreement by next month.

The two leaderships were adamant yesterday that they were not bypassing their own party memberships and said that any agreement would be put to the respective parties for approval before the election.

Liberal Democrat leaders want to bolster Labour in its commitment to end the right of hereditary peers to vote in the Lords, avoid signs that Labour is preparing to delay the reforms until at least the second year of the Parliament.

William Rees-Mogg, Peter Riddell, page 18

Poll-rocked Prime Minister may face Blair in public debate

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR showed again yesterday that he believes he is the Tories' strongest card if they are to claw back Labour's massive opinion-poll lead and win a fifth successive term.

His announcement that he will hold on-the-record, White House-style press conferences and will escape "Westminster's charm circle" to most the public confirms that he has decided that a presidential campaign is his best chance. Mr Major even said that he had an open mind about a public debate with Tony Blair, although past prime ministers

have avoided such confrontations. Mr Major has begun election year at a furious pace. Today, as the latest anti-Labour posters are unveiled in London, he will be campaigning in the North. Tomorrow he will go to Conservative Central Office to give the first of his new-style media conferences. On Wednesday, he will set off for a whistle-stop trip to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, returning next week as the recess ends.

The Prime Minister's decision to go to the sub-continent was personal: some advisers would have preferred him to stay at home. He believes that, in spite of the risk of unwelcome stories breaking while he is away,

there is more to be gained from being seen on the world stage and doing business for Britain. He will be taking a contingent of leading industrialists.

Mr Major has had a good rest from Westminster and the media, but he has not been wasting his holiday break. Policy advisers have made regular visits to his Huntingdon home for brainstorming sessions on the manifesto. The early fruits were available at the end of last week when the Prime Minister restated his vision of Conservatism in the foreword to a new book containing his speeches. Mr Major is expected to hold press

conferences about every three weeks from now to the election. His preferred polling date remains May 1. He said that he wanted to "get directly through to the public without having my views enshrined in someone else's words between me and the media when they report them."

After a regional tour in September, Mr Major told aides that he was confident he could win the election. One said: "He is always impressed by the immense amount of goodwill shown towards him wherever he goes out into the country. He has the experience of the 1990 leadership election, the 1992 general election and the 1995 leadership election behind

him. He won every time and it did not always look as if he would. He believes he is a winner and that is a huge asset."

Mr Major spoke yesterday of the risk of politicians being drawn into the charm circle of Westminster and Whitehall thinking, rather than being subjected to the instincts, hopes and fears of the public at large. "I intend to have a real debate with people in the country. That is where the election will be won and lost. Too often the public see their politicians only through the fish-eye of a television lens. It is not the same as face-to-face, and I do not think it is the same for the politician either."



Major: election "will be won in the country"

Consider the NHS, Carey tells voters

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday urged churchgoers to consider the state of the health service when deciding who to vote for in the forthcoming general election. Dr George Carey said politicians' views on strengthening

the health service should be considered by voters in order to help to attain the kind of society "we desperately need".

Interviewed for BBC Radio 2 yesterday morning, Dr Carey, said the Church should not tell congregations which way to vote. It would be wrong for churches to say, for example, that one party had

the best foreign policy or the best defence policy.

"What we can do is to help our congregations to meditate on the issues that lie behind these things," he said. "For example, what kind of society do we want? What are the politicians' thoughts about strengthening the National Health Service? There are various

aspects like that which go into the kind of society we desperately need."

Dr Carey's comments come days after five senior Church of England bishops were criticised for accusing the Government of failing to put morality at the heart of its policy and for presiding over the country's spiritual impoverishment.

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Hume offers terms for Sinn Fein pact

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

JOHN HUME, leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, yesterday set out his terms for an electoral pact with Sinn Fein — telling republicans to declare a ceasefire and to end their boycott of Westminster.

In a strongly worded article in a Dublin newspaper, the MP said he wanted to increase the number of nationalist MPs to counter "the Unionist blackmail of the Government". But he said that the SDLP would never enter a pact with a party committed to violence.

Mr Hume's article was the first time he has spelled out the arguments in favour of an electoral pact with Sinn Fein, which could almost double the number of nationalist MPs at Westminster. He had rarely discussed the issue before because the SDLP's three other MPs are opposed to a pact. The SDLP MPs are the only Irish nationalist voices at Westminster out of Northern Ireland's 17 MPs. Boundary changes mean that there will be 18 seats at the next election, seven of which could be won by nationalists if there were an SDLP/Sinn Fein pact.

Mr Hume wrote in the *Sunday Independent* that he

would discuss an electoral pact with Sinn Fein "in circumstances of a complete end to violence". But he told the party to abandon its boycott of Westminster or else not bother to contest the election.

"What, exactly, is the motivation of those who insist on fighting for seats in a Parliament they do not recognise — seats which they would refuse to take if they won them?" Mr Hume wrote. "How does a policy of neutralising representation, rather than maximising it, fit into a strategy of seeking a negotiated settlement through the democratic political process?"

If the SDLP and Sinn Fein were to form a pact they could unseat Ken Maginnis, of the Ulster Unionist Party, in Fermanagh and South Tyrone, and the Rev William McCrea, of the Democratic Unionists, in Mid Ulster, and also capture the new seat of West Tyrone.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, refused to sit in the "foreign Parliament" when he was MP for West Belfast between 1983 and 1992. Mr Adams said last night that he was disappointed by Mr Hume's article.

Gerry Adams in IRA film

Continued from page 1

while Michael Aisles, the former Northern Ireland Security Minister, said the video confirmed the two men were pivotal IRA leaders. "It puts in black and white what we have known all along. There is no difference between Sinn Fein and the IRA. They are a seamless robe," he said.

The £850 video, which recently went on sale at the Sinn Fein bookshop on the Falls Road in West Belfast, sends a blunt message that the republican movement's dual strate-

gy of the "Armalite and the ballot paper" is now firmly weighted in favour of terrorism.

The section covering the collapse of the ceasefire is followed by a picture of a masked terrorist aiming a rocket-propelled grenade as the words "Will the Brits Ever Learn?" appear. The tape then ends with the words "Rochdaid ar la", the IRA slogan which means "Our day will come".

The video, which is selling well at the Sinn Fein

bookshop on the Falls Road which is used regularly by Mr Adams as a press conference venue, opens with scenes of heavy-handed police tactics in the late 1960s and early 1970s to set the scene for the Provisional IRA's campaign. It has no narrative and uses Irish music and rebel republican songs for background sound and shows the IRA in three phases from "Defence" to "Resistance" and on to the "Offensive".

The IRA pushes home its hardline message by taking a swipe at Baroness Thatcher for her tough stance during the 1981 republican hunger strike.

As four armed terrorists patrol a Belfast street the former Prime Minister's famous comment that the IRA had played "its last card" during the hunger strikes flashes up. There is a pause and then, as one of the terrorists aims a general-purpose machine gun, the words "Didn't she get it wrong?" appear on the screen.

Richard McAuley, Sinn Fein's spokesman in Belfast, last night rejected claims that Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness were IRA leaders. He said: "Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness have rejected the suggestion time and time again that they are in the IRA or are leaders in the IRA."



Masked man with AK47 rifle in the new IRA video

Politician seen as a figure of fun at Westminster faces collapse of career after claims of gay affair

Spectre of young 'assistant' returns to haunt Hayes

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE likely demise of the political career of Mr. Stone, who has been seen as a figure of fun at Westminster, faces collapse after claims of a gay affair.

The picture could be a reference to the fact that Mr. Stone, who was a member of the House of Commons, was seen as a figure of fun at Westminster.

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between himself and Mr. Stone, who has been seen as a figure of fun at Westminster, faces collapse after claims of a gay affair.

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Jerry Hayes: his decision to flaunt his friendship surprised even his friends



Jerry Hayes's family home in Essex

Local association members wait to hear from MP

By JOANNA BALE

SENIOR members of the Harlow Conservative Association closed ranks yesterday and refused to discuss whether they would demand the resignation of Jerry Hayes.

But Conservative supporters in the constituency were less forgiving.

David Roberts, the constituency chairman, who was contacted by Mr Hayes on Saturday night to warn him that the News of the World was about to publish details of the relationship, said the constituency was "standing by" their MP at this stage.

Mr Roberts said he and other constituency members were "gobsmacked" by the revelations. He went on: "Jerry has always been scrupulously careful in what he does and says. OK, he has done some rather weird television shows by some people's standards in the past that have caused comment but he generally takes great care in how he behaves. I am behind him until I know different."

Asked whether there would be calls for his resignation if it subsequently transpired that under-age homosexual sex had taken place as Mr Stone had claimed, Mr Roberts said: "I don't want to deal in speculation."

"When we have had a chance to talk to Jerry then I will be able to have perhaps a different opinion. At his stage I am with Jerry."

He added: "I have had no irate phone calls from local party activists. I have spoken to one or two people who want to wait until we have

had a chance to talk to Jerry before making any decisions."

Mr Roberts said he did not know precisely where Mr Hayes was but said that he had been planning to take his children to Disneyland Paris over the Christmas period. The MP's family home is in Wendens Ambo, just outside the constituency.

Mr Roberts said he did not know where Mr Hayes was or when he was due back. He said he was talking to other members of the association. He said: "There is no talk of deselection."

Philip Weales, an association member and former treasurer, said: "I was shocked to hear of the allegations but it is for the constituency to decide what should be done. I find this quite hard to believe."

But Conservative supporters in the constituency were hostile. Graham Easton, 45, a computer programmer said: "He should resign. He has been very foolish with his money. Whether they had sex or not, Mr Hayes still wrote him love letters which would lay him open to blackmail."

Shirley Dadds, 60, a pensioner, said: "I feel sorry for his wife and children. Although he's quite a good MP, he appears to be a hypocrite. John Major's stand on family values will be an important part of the next election and Jerry would just let the side down."

Darren Scammell, 28, a panel beater, said: "He's an embarrassment and John Major should kick him out."

Journalist murder suspect in jail siege

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

SIX inmates armed with a

syringe of blood and makeshift weapons were holding

five prison officers hostage for a second night in the Irish Republic's largest jail. The six

include Paul Ward, who is on

separate charges of conspiracy to murder the journalist Veronica Guerin.

One other hostage was freed on Saturday night shortly

after the inmates barricaded themselves into a recreation

hall of Mountjoy prison, Dublin. After negotiations, an

official from the Department of Justice and the prison governor, John Loneragan, agreed to

allow the prisoners to subsidise their grievances.

In a statement, the Department of Justice said that Paul Ward was protesting his

innocence of the charges he is facing. The five others were

protesting against living conditions and alleged ill-treatment in the segregation unit.

The 19th-century prison has long been plagued with problems of overcrowding. It was

built for 400 inmates but currently houses more than 1,000. They include some of the

Republic's most notorious criminals, although terrorists are not held there. The segregation unit is due to be

refurbished next month.

Cold claims four more lives as freeze continues

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE bitterly cold weather

claimed four more lives yesterday as forecasters predicted

that the freezing conditions would continue for another

week.

In Warwickshire a man

froze to death who had reportedly lain down on a frozen

lake after an argument with his girlfriend. He was named

as Colin Worrall, 23, of Yardley Green, Birmingham.

At Motcombe, Dorset, Christine Taube, 47, was

found dead under bushes only 150 yards from her home. She

had run after her dog, wearing only a light cardigan and

trousers, after being dropped at her front door by a taxi on

Saturday afternoon. An overnight search with tracker

dogs, a helicopter and infrared equipment failed to find

her, but yesterday her body was discovered in a garden

close to her home.

An ambulance service spokesman said: "Mrs Taube

had obviously collapsed. She was said to have had a bad

back, which might have made it difficult for her to get up."

In Sellindge, near Folkestone, Kent, a man aged 29

who has not yet been named, was found frozen to death in a

neighbour's garden after returning from a party in the

early hours of the morning. Police said it was thought he

had become disoriented and collapsed as hypothermia set

in. He had removed his shoes, jacket and jumper.

Tony Page, 40, of Birstall, Leicestershire, was walking

with his two step-children, aged nine and five, when their

dog fell through ice on the River Soar near Leicester. Mr

Page, trying to rescue it, fell through the ice too.

The children raised the alarm and Mr Page was

pulled unconscious from the river after being trapped

under the ice for about 30 minutes. He died later in hospital.

The dog escaped from the river unharmed.

In Alton, Hampshire, two children were rescued by

firemen with ladders after becoming trapped on an island in a

pond when a thaw weakened the ice.

Boy of 16 shot dead dancing at party

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A MAN was questioned by

police yesterday after a 16-year-old schoolboy was shot

dead on the packed dancefloor of a rave party.

A woman aged 18 was

wounded in the incident and other dancers fled the floor in

panic at the Chimes club in Clapton, east London. Police

said that several weapons were later found at the scene.

The dead boy was believed to be a GCSE student from the

Forest Gate area. He was among guests at a pay party for

two young women who were celebrating their seventeenth

birthdays. The shootings took place at about 3am

yesterday and police believe two men were involved.

One partygoer said: "The club was thumping. Everyone

was raving. There was light on the dancefloor. I saw a

flash and then the boy went down. There was blood

pouring out of his head and everything just went mad."

The wounded 18-year-old woman was taken to

Homerton hospital in Hackney, but was not seriously

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Drug alert over mint with no hole

By ROBIN YOUNG

SMALL, white, pill-shaped sweets made by Nestlé Rowntree have been added to a

toxicology database for police and hospitals because they are being mistaken for

drugs.

The sweets are a marketing gimmick from the manufacturers of Polo, which

calls them "the holes from the mints". They are individually marked with the

letters P, L or O, mystifying teachers who have been confiscating them by the

hundreds.

London, produced on CD-Rom for sale to

customs officers, police forces and hospitals that might need to identify items that

can be dangerous or illegal.

They feature alongside thousands of

drugs, medicines and poisons in pill or capsule form, pictured and identified. In

Universities set up special loan deal to attract students

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of universities is preparing its own student loans scheme to tempt scholars away from rivals and to curb the rising drop-out rate. A dozen institutions in the upper reaches of the research league table have formed a consortium with Midland Bank to offer an exclusive loan package to graduate students.

The Times understands other deals are being negotiated with private lenders. Vice-chancellors are also being urged to take over the Government's Student Loans Company when it is put out to tender this year to ensure that undergraduates get the best possible repayment terms.

The universities involved have 27,000 graduate students. They are Bath, Durham, East Anglia, Exeter, Essex, Reading, Surrey, Sussex, Warwick, York and the London University institu-

tions Birkbeck College and the London School of Economics.

The move reflects widespread concern about the financial pressures on students that are leading them to work harder at their part-time jobs than at their degrees. Students are widely expected to have to pay more towards their education, although the Government deferred a decision by setting up the Dearing inquiry into higher education, to report next summer. The 94 Group of universities, formed in 1994 to co-operate on mutual concerns, said it could not wait that long before launching its own loan scheme for postgraduates.

Ivor Crewe, Vice-Chancellor of Essex, which led negotiations with the Midland, said up to 400 potential masters students pulled out every year from Essex alone. Professor Crewe said: "The 12 universi-

ties in the consortium are advising in all of their student recruitment publicity the existence of the scheme. It will be up to them whether to apply for a loan. If they do, they will talk to the Midland Bank."

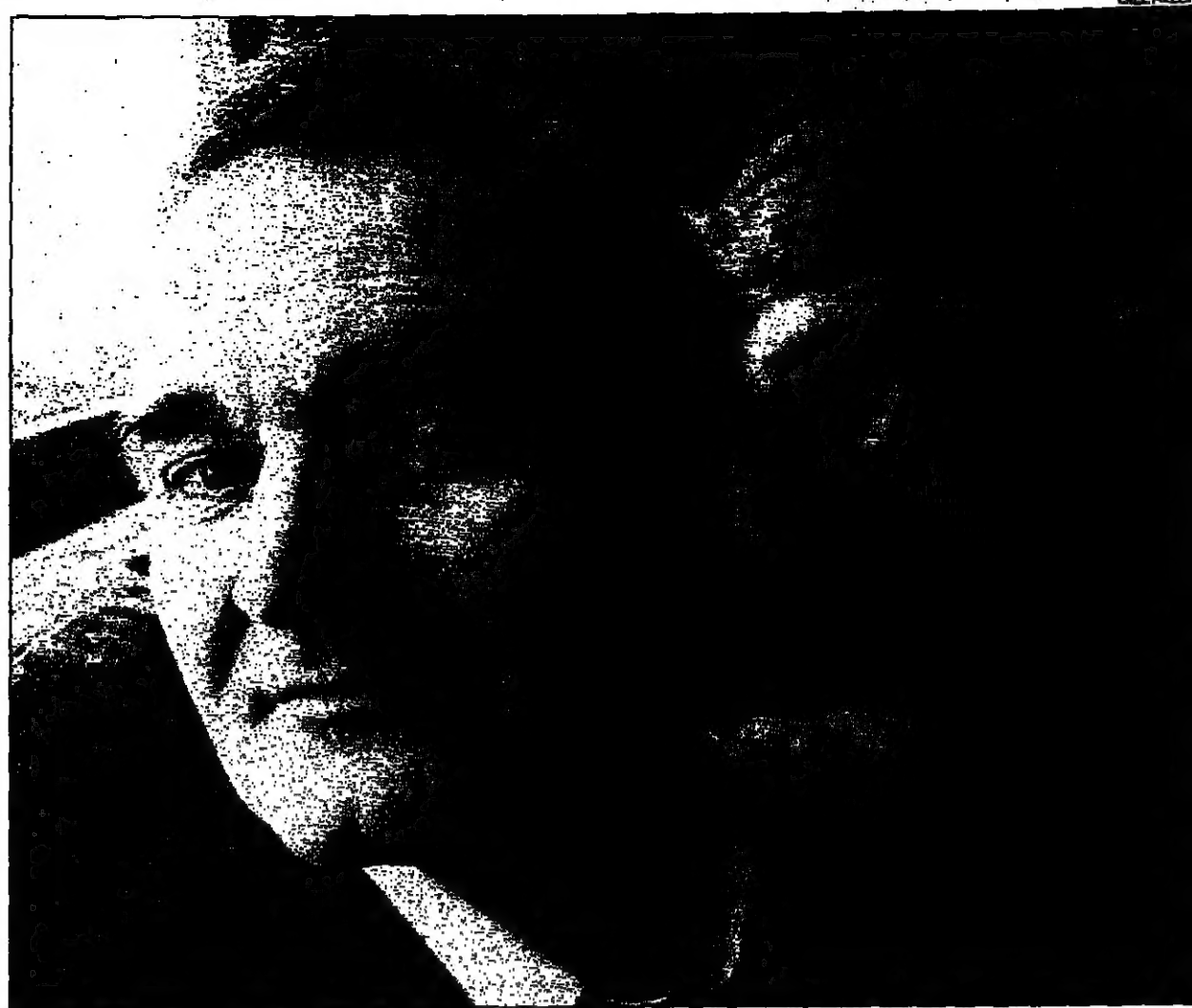
The scheme, planned for October, will allow postgraduates seven years to repay loans of up to £10,000, or £5,000 for one-year courses. No payments would be due until six months after completing the course and would be at 2 per cent over base rate, or 1 per cent for selected subjects, including medicine and law.

Vernon Vandellinde, Vice-Chancellor at Bath, said he could see the scheme being extended to undergraduates. "There was an obvious gap in the market for postgraduate students we thought we might be able to have some impact on. If an undergraduate came to us we would probably call up the local Midland Bank and say, 'We have this other student, could you extend the same deal to them.'"

Students criticised the universities for acting in advance of the Dearing report and forecast that they would form a "super league". Ewan Jenkins, president of Durham Students' Union, said: "The fact that these loans are only available to students in a very small number of institutions takes us away from a mass participation system. They disregard the fact that ability to learn, not to pay, must be the predominant entrance factor for any course."

The call for universities to take over the Student Loans Company comes from academics at the LSE, the only institution so far to prepare course fees for 1998 entrants. Iain Crawford and Nicholas Barr, at the LSE's Centre for Education Research, estimate a takeover would cost each university £20,000, if the Government successfully sold off the company's existing £2 billion of debt.

Mr Crawford said: "Universities are the ideal bodies for administering student loans because they would always be motivated to act in the interests of the borrower."



David Jennings yesterday with his wife, Samantha. He says that his comments on Dunblane were misconstrued.

Children need not fear me, says man accused of Dunblane threat

By STEPHEN FARRELL

THE former soldier who allegedly threatened to "do a Dunblane" has decided not to challenge a High Court injunction that bans him from schools and council buildings. But within hours of his release from jail, David Jennings renewed his long-running protest against Greenwich council in southeast London.

In a three-hour interview ending at 3.36am on the night he was freed, Jennings set out a litany of complaints about the care of four of his ten children. His comments raised fears among former neighbours that he would revive other grudges.

At a hearing in London today, at which the council will seek to make the injunction permanent, he hopes to read a statement to the judge saying that he never threatened to attack children. He will also offer an undertaking not to approach schools or council buildings.

"The London Borough of Greenwich has gone completely off the rails, printing photographs of myself and sending them to every parent in Greenwich as if I was Jesse James," he said. "The matter has been blown out of all proportion."

6 There was no way that I was ever going to go to any schools

Driven by a belief that the authorities failed to protect his children, Jennings, 51, makes lengthy accusations of conspiracy against headmasters, foster parents, social workers, prison officers, magistrates and judges.

His solicitor has admitted that the Dunblane threat was made to a prison chaplain, but Jennings said that his words had been misconstrued. "There was no way that I was ever going to go to any schools, and that has been the case all the way along."

Jennings, who has a conviction for possessing a firearm in public, left Swaleside prison, Kent, on Friday. He has been staying at the home of his second wife, Samantha, 29, in Abbey Wood, southeast London.

He was jailed for affray in November 1995 after throwing rubble through the window of Peter Bailey, 34, his neigh-

bour in nearby Eltham. He claimed that Mr Bailey had harassed his wife. Mr Bailey, recalled last night, having to dodge flying slabs, rocks and glass as he tried to protect his children and to call the police while Jennings broke every window at the rear of his house. "He is the sort of bloke who, if he gets pressurised, will do something violent," he said.

Other residents remembered Jennings as a "nightmare" council tenant. Mothers have since signed a petition demanding strong legal action and increased security at schools.

Jennings served as a private in the Middlesex Regiment from 1965 to 1968, but he denied reports that he had fired at his commanding officer in Guyana, saying the reverse was true. After leaving the Army he worked for two years as a motorcycle assembler for Norton, but was made redundant and has worked only occasionally since.

A spokeswoman for Greenwich Council said last night: "We would deny categorically any conspiracy against Mr Jennings. We shall be going before the judge evidence which convinces us that we should be seeking this permanent injunction."

Le Shuttle resumes services for coach travellers

By A STAFF REPORTER

COACH traffic will be allowed back on Le Shuttle trains from today.

Travellers will, however, have to reserve places in advance on the limited number of services running between Folkestone and Calais since the blaze on a freight shuttle in November.

A spokeswoman for Eurotunnel said: "The car shuttles comprise single and double-deck wagons, with the singledeckers designed to carry coaches and other high-sided vehicles."

"We will resume carrying these vehicles on the car shuttles, which are currently running at a rate of two an hour in each direction, though they will have to reserve in advance."

The announcement means that only heavy goods vehicles, which are carried on separate trains, have not yet resumed services. It is not known when lorry traffic will be able to restart.

A section of the northbound tunnel was badly damaged and 34 people were injured after a lorry on one of the freight wagons caught fire. An investigation into the cause of the original blaze is still being conducted by the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority.

Fire brigade unions and MPs criticised a decision by the authority to allow freight trains to resume services just three days after the blaze, and Eurostar and car shuttles weeks later.

Part of the tunnel is still closed and trains have adopted a "cross-over" procedure, using the central service tunnel, to avoid the damaged section.

The tunnel has been dogged by problems since the fire, including a minor blaze as engineers tried to move the damaged train days after the first blaze.

Two weeks ago, a stationary Le Shuttle train intended for use as an evacuation vehicle caught fire at the Folkestone terminal because of a wiring fault. Last week two Eurostar trains were stranded in the tunnel after electrical faults developed.

Graduates will find jobs hunt easier

By OUR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

COMPETITION for top graduate jobs will be less fierce this summer, because vacancies are increasing at a faster rate than student numbers for the first time in five years.

Students have had to battle hard for plum jobs during the 1990s, but the Association of Graduate Recruiters yesterday forecast an 11.5 per cent rise in vacancies. This summer's graduates who find a job will start on an average salary of £15,325, the association forecast. Starting pay rose by 4.4 per cent in 1996, compared with the rise in average earnings of 3.7 per cent, and is likely to increase by a similar amount this year.

Roly Cockman, chief executive of the association, said: "The number of traditional graduate jobs stayed the same almost throughout the recession, but the number of graduates coming out of the university system has doubled over the past five years. For the first

time since then, the number of vacancies is going up faster than the rate of increase in people looking for them. We are actually winning for the first time in five years."

The association's annual survey showed, however, that more than a third of big recruiters said they could not find suitable graduates for scientific, engineering, research and development and technical jobs, particularly those in computing. The association, which represents employers as diverse as Marks & Spencer, Midland Bank, the Police Service and Unilever, said that it was difficult to find graduates in those areas with the right blend of technical and communication skills.

Mr Cockman added that the association would like to see university courses deliver the skills employers needed. "This means more teamwork and project work and less straightforward lecturing."

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Mr Cockman added that the association would like to see university courses deliver the skills employers needed. "This means more teamwork and project work and less straightforward lecturing."

Machete attack nurse returns

THE nursery nurse who fought off a machete attacker at an infants' school in Wolverhampton returns to work tomorrow.

Lisa Potts, 21, has visited the pupils at St Luke's Church of England school in Blakenhall since the attack last July but has not been well enough to resume teaching. She was praised by a judge for trying to protect the children as Horrold Campbell, a paranoid schizophrenic, lashed out at pupils, parents and staff with a 2ft machete. Last month Campbell was found guilty of seven charges of attempted murder. He is due to be sentenced next month.

Ms Potts suffered gashes to her arms and cuts to her back as she tried to shepherd the children inside the building. The three children injured in the attack returned to school in the autumn.

St Luke's reopened a week after the attack. Fences were set up around the school and security alarms issued to staff.

Nurses' lawyers seek talks over withdrawn confessions

By STEPHEN FARRELL AND ROGER MAYNARD

THE two British nurses charged with murder in Saudi Arabia have withdrawn their confessions and an admission that one had an affair with the victim, Yvonne Gilford, their lawyers said yesterday.

After their first meeting with Saudi legal representatives since their arrest, Deborah Parry, 41, and Lucille McLauchlan, 31, retracted the written statements sworn before three Saudi judges on December 23. The lawyers claimed yesterday that the admissions had been made only after police promised that they would be deported and would not face prosecution for the murder of Ms Gilford, 58, an Australian nurse at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran.

The women, both wearing the traditional Muslim chador, met three Saudi lawyers, a British legal representative and a consul for an hour in separate meetings at Dammam central prison on Saturday.

They are concerned that their case will be tarnished by reports in Saudi newspapers that they were arrested after being seen on video film at a shopping centre using Miss Gilford's charge cards.

The written statements [of confessions] included an admission of a lesbian relationship between Deborah Parry and Yvonne Gilford. Deborah Parry vehemently denied to us that such a relationship had existed," said a statement from the law firm of Salah al-Hejailan, issued at the women's request.

The written statements also included an admission that the two nurses had taken Yvonne Gilford's bank card after the murder and had used this to withdraw cash on several occasions over the following days. Both nurses strongly denied this to us.

"The suspects said that they had made these statements to the police because they were promised that, if they did so,

they would be allowed to see the British Consul, would be sent home in two to three weeks and would not be subject to prosecution in Saudi Arabia."

The firm emphasised that both nurses had only recently arrived in Saudi Arabia, did not know Miss Gilford well, and had been "very confused and apprehensive" after their arrest. The lawyers would be discussing the retraction with the authorities as soon as possible.

Ms McLauchlan's brother, John, insisted yesterday that the family had confidence in the country's Sharia courts. "We are very grateful to the Saudi Arabian authorities for providing my sister with the best possible legal representation. We have faith in the Saudi justice system and we feel sure that Lucy will be found innocent of any crimes," he said. He also extended the family's sympathies to Miss Gilford's family.

Princess's visit suggests royal thaw

By ALAN HAMILTON

DIANA, Princess of Wales, is to visit Angola next week on behalf of the Red Cross, despite severing her connections with the charity at the time of last summer's divorce.

During her five-day visit, which has the approval of the Queen and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Princess will see a British operation to clear millions of landmines planted during the country's 20-year civil war. She will stay as a guest of the Queen in the British Ambassador's residence in the Angolan capital, Luanda.

The Princess stepped down from the British Red Cross after acting as patron during their 125th anniversary celebrations. Her decision to restore the link is understood to have been the result of a personal appeal from the film-maker Lord Attenborough. Approval from the Queen for the semi-official working visit is an indication that Buckingham Palace is keen to restore good relations



The Prince of Wales with Prince Harry yesterday

with the Princess now that her divorce is out of the way. Planned visits to other trouble spots, including Bosnia and Afghanistan, are likely to receive the Queen's approval.

Conscious of the damage done to the monarchy's reputation by the Waleses' divorce, the Palace is keen to mend fences. An opinion poll com-

missioned by Carlton TV for a live debate tomorrow shows that 48 per cent of Britons believe the Crown will be replaced by a republic within 50 years. The MORI survey found that 37 per cent thought the Royal Family were hard working, half thought they were important for Britain, and 22 per cent regard them

as highly respected. However, 19 per cent view them as irresponsible, and the number who believe the Royal Family had high moral standards is 8 per cent.

At Klosters, the Prince of Wales's skiing holiday with Prince Harry was marred by a fall from a horse, the result of injuries from the Prince's "action man" youth and his career as a polo player. As father and son hurried down a snow-covered hillside on a two-man toboggan, the 12-year-old squealed with delight while his father grimaced when the sledge bumped over a ridge of snow.

The ride was a prelude to another full day's skiing. As the toboggan came to a halt in front of reporters and cameramen, the Prince of Wales patted his son on both shoulders. But Prince Harry, anxious to be off again, tugged at the sledge's reins and they proceeded at speed downhill, leaving only the Prince of Wales's shout of "Au revoir" hanging in the mountain air.

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Police look to private firms for sponsorship cash



Mohamed Al Fayed in Harrods-sponsored car

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE forces aim to raise up to £70 million a year from sponsorship deals to fund patrol cars, police stations and crime-fighting strategies.

The logos of some of the biggest companies are already appearing on the sides of police cars and may soon be seen on uniforms. Crime prevention campaigns against drug abuse, computer theft and poaching have received commercial cash.

Sponsorship projects under way include an £8,000 mobile police station for the West End area of

Newcastle upon Tyne, provided by a local brewery. In Yorkshire, police patrol in a Peugeot 306 provided by the road-builder Balfour-Beatty.

The deals stem from new Home Office regulations that allow forces to raise up to 1 per cent of their annual budgets from sponsorship. One senior police official said: "It's been forbidden territory until recently. Now everything is up for grabs." Normally forces rule out any endorsement of a company and require each deal to be carefully investigated and decisions on logos to be taken at senior level.

North Yorkshire, Cleveland, Gloucestershire, Cambridgeshire

and West Yorkshire have formed marketing teams. Humberside is appointing a marketing officer and the West Midlands force may do the same. The City of London has begun formulating a policy.

The Metropolitan Police is recruiting a sponsorship expert to raise more than £16 million a year. He or she will come from academic or charity fundraising and work with senior officers on the guidelines.

Companies interested in sponsorship will be carefully vetted and the use of logos and wording on police equipment examined to make sure they are not inappropriate. One

senior Yard source said: "We are not going to get into bed with someone who is trying to wash themselves clean. It has got to be someone with a reputation that does not tarnish us. Both sides have got to get something out of it."

He said the Yard had merely tinkered with such deals so far. Sponsorship for cars was worth only £5,000 to £10,000 and the bigger projects had been worth less than £100,000 each. The new policy and appointment plan mark an attempt to co-ordinate the effort and tap a much bigger market.

The Yard already has a car sponsored by Harrods, which is used by

special constables in west London. McDonald's recently provided £50,000 for an anti-drug video and Esso gave money for a wildlife crime project. The Crimestoppers scheme is also backed by businesses, and many companies have contributed to a £1 million reward fund for combating terrorism.

In Surrey a fleet of cars for a national police course in high-speed chases have been donated by Vauxhall and carries logos. The car radios come from a communications company. In Saltaire, west Yorkshire, a group of businesses has funded a village police "shop", complete with blue lamp, by paying

the £3,000 rent on a house for a year. Land Rover has provided Thames Valley with one vehicle for a rural crime prevention patrol.

But the course of partnership is not always smooth. A van sponsored by Avon and Somerset police had to have the logo reduced in size because of objections. The Police Federation, representing junior ranks, argues that sponsorship is no substitute for proper police funding. Fred Broughton, chairman of the federation, said he feared a conflict of interests which could leave the public believing some companies received preferential treatment.

Urban rich 'are main drug-users'

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PROSPEROUS professionals living in smart inner-city and urban areas are the biggest users of illegal drugs, according to government studies of drug misuse. But these affluent residents are the least worried by criminal activity linked to drugs.

Home Office studies of "rising", "striving" and "settling" neighbourhoods found drug misuse was so widespread that it included churchgoers.

The highest level of drug-taking in the 19 to 59 age group was found in households with an income of more than £30,000 a year in neighbourhoods categorised as "rising". Other characteristics of these residents was that they tended to be health-conscious, took holidays off the beaten track and frequently ate out.

Malcolm Ramsay, one of the report's authors, said: "The use of prohibited drugs is seen by people who have everything else going in their lives as something they can handle to some degree: something they can dip in and dip out of."

In the rising neighbourhoods, 59 per cent of people between 16 and 29 admitted using drugs at some time and 24 per cent had used

them in the previous month, compared with 42 per cent and 14 per cent respectively in the less well-off council estates that were defined as striving areas. In the settling districts, made up of privately owned homes and largely skilled workers, the figures were 38 per cent and 11 per cent.

Among the 30 to 59 age group in rising districts, 44 per cent said they had taken drugs in their lifetime and 5 per cent in the past month, compared with 22 and 3 per cent in striving areas and 21 and 1 per cent in settling districts.

The report, called *Drug Misuse Declared*, says of the rising group: "These are people who are young, possibly single, generally without children. Even the older people in such neighbourhoods are substantially more likely to take drugs than those living elsewhere." The study was based on findings from 9,646 people in 1994.

A separate study of attitudes to drug-related crime found that residents of council estates were most concerned and those in the rising group were least anxious. The report adds that most young people have not taken prohibited drugs.

Strokes made worse by suicide cells

BY NIGEL HAWKES
AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

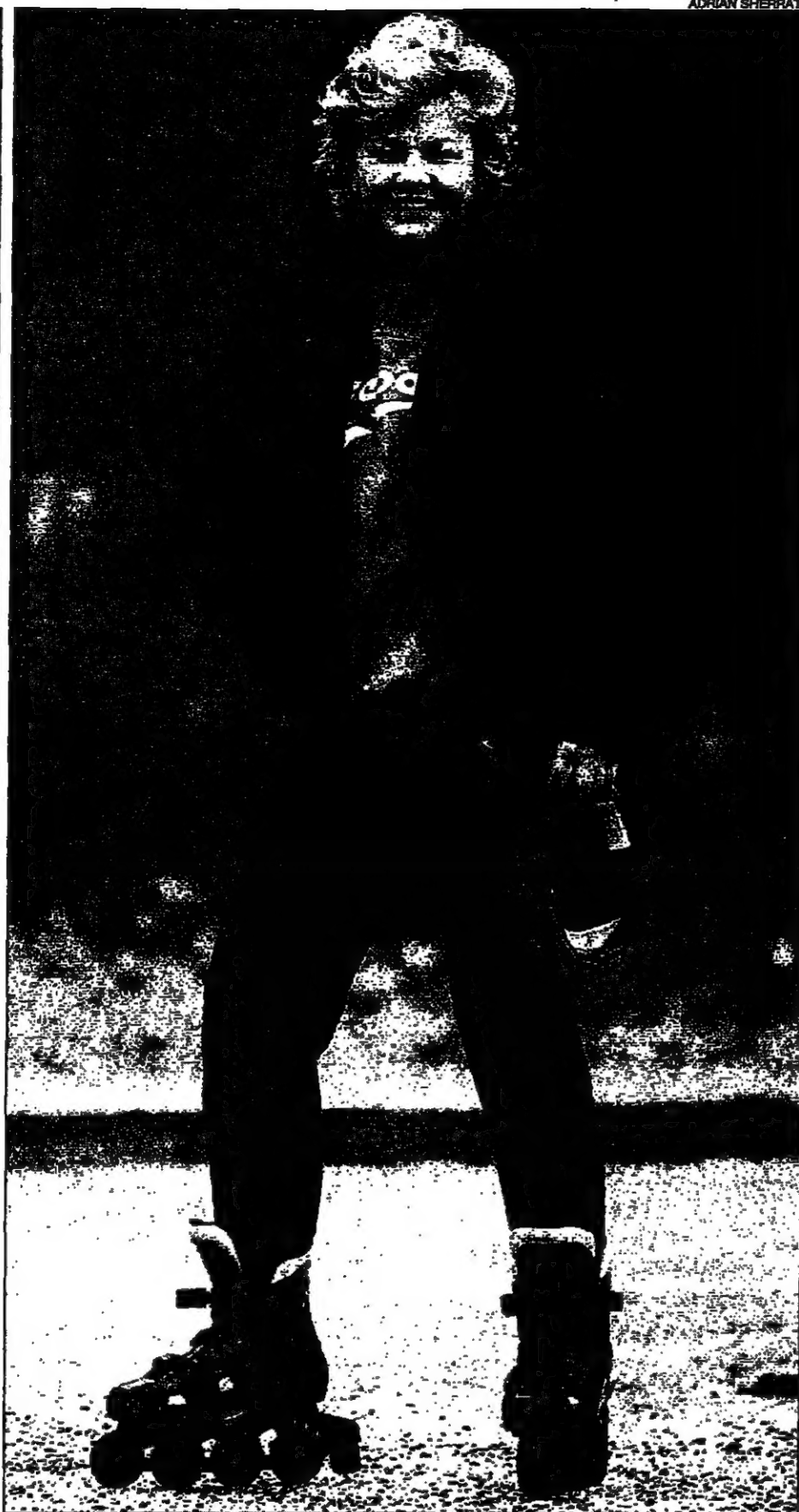
SCIENTISTS have discovered that much of the damage caused by paralysis after strokes and spinal cord injuries comes from cells "committing suicide" when toxins are released by the brain.

The research could lead to drugs blocking the effect of the toxins and preventing paralysis. Scientists already knew that only part of the damage experienced by stroke victims was caused by the stroke itself.

Researchers at Manchester University, funded by the

charity Research into Ageing, have now identified a chemical, interleukin-1 or IL-1, which plays an important part in cell suicide. Professor Nancy Rothwell said: "Blocking the action of IL-1 dramatically reduces stroke damage, inhibits brain swelling and inflammation." A quarter of stroke victims die and half of survivors are disabled.

Separate research in America has found that much of the damage from spinal cord injuries is not done at the time, but in the succeeding three weeks, when a wave of "suicides" runs through the nerve cells.



Judy Clementson: says the mandate from the 1975 referendum has run out

Goldsmith party candidates put youth to the fore

BY RUTH WINSTONE

THEY have been denounced as a hazy army, old flag-waving little Englanders, Sir James Goldsmith's rabble. They are the 530 candidates selected so far to stand for the Referendum Party.

A few star names have been announced, but what of the rest? According to a survey by *The Times* of 300 chosen by the beginning of December, their average age is about 46 — slightly older than the Conservative average of 41 and Labour's 45, but younger than media stereotypes of retired colonels. A substantial number were too young to vote in the 1975 referendum, in which the youngest elector would now be 39.

That is their opening argument. One of those too young in 1975 was John Mackfall, now 36 and a traffic warden, he is challenging a Conservative majority of 18,000 in Ryedale, Yorkshire. He is director of the local Harley Davidson motorcycle club, chairman of his union branch, has no strong political affiliations and believes in progressive social policies. He does not have much time for politicians but says "Someone has to offer the electorate a choice".

Among the youngest candidates is Craig Robinson, a 25-year-old telecommunications consultant fighting Basildon, where the Tory majority is 1,400. He sees advantages in co-operation with other EU countries — on fishing, pollution and peace — and wants Britain to be a good member state, but says that Maastricht is a treaty too far.

Judy Clementson, 48, a grandmother and roller-blading fan, is fighting Virginia Bottomley's Surrey seat. She said: "I voted in favour in 1975, but that mandate has run out. Electors lend powers to their MPs for five years. These cannot be given away indefinitely."

Christopher McGovern, 46, a primary teacher who lost his job as a secondary school

history teacher after criticising GCSE standards, has been advising the Government on its history curriculum. He is the candidate fighting for Hastings and Rye. He argues that federal models cannot survive against national interests and identity.

The party claims growing support, suggesting last week that it had recruited its 100,000th supporter. Its central tenet is that there has been a failure of democratic representation in politics.

The candidates have nothing like the support or infrastructure of the other parties. Chosen by a central panel, their local organisation has to be built from scratch. The party has no formal membership or subscription system, and candidates put up their own deposits.

The most recent candidate is Ruth Gurney, 49, a lay assessor with Birmingham Social Services and a widow with six children, who will fight Clare Short's seat in Ladywood. In the past, Miss Gurney dabbled with the Young Socialists and converted to the Conservative Party under Margaret Thatcher. She was moved to become a Referendum Party candidate by a *Parade* magazine of 1994.



Craig Robinson, 25: one of youngest candidates

Scientists find heart defect gene

Scientists have identified the gene behind an inherited condition which can lead to babies being born with a hole in the heart. Holt-Oram syndrome affects the development of the heart and forearm.

A team led by Professor David Brook, at Nottingham University, tracked down the gene responsible, HOS-1. A paper on the research, which was backed by the British Heart Foundation, appears in this month's *Nature Genetics*.

Weekend in jail

Peter Curzon, 45, heir to Viscount Scarsdale, will appear in the High Court today after spending the weekend in jail for failing to pay a £575,000 divorce settlement agreed last June. He was arrested after he flew to Britain from Florida.

999 death crash

A teenager was killed when he was hit by a police car answering an emergency call. Ian McClure, 18, of Irvine, North Ayrshire, died at the scene of the accident in the town centre. A report is to be prepared for the Procurator Fiscal.

Private lines

Three more rail lines have started running privatised services. First Bus, GB Railways and Virgin Rail are operating out of London's East Anglia. The Virgin Group launched the CrossCountry

Lasagne recall

Asda has recalled packs of frozen lasagne which may have been filled in error with a vegetable baste containing cashew nuts. The recall affects 400g packs with a best-before date of November 1997 and the code ERK 63161.

Garden quarry

A man sweeping his patio was sucked into a 100ft hole that opened up beneath him. Stephen Owen, 28, managed to scramble clear after becoming wedged in the top of what was thought to be an old quarry shaft at his home in Sheffield.

Happy returns

Villagers in Gotherington, Gloucestershire, who donated £10,000 30 years ago towards a church that was never built, are being asked if they want their money back. The money has grown to £65,000 in a church bank account.

Nod and a wink

Christine Wiggins, 24, has become the first woman council member of the English Tiddlywinks Association since its formation in 1955. Ms Wiggins, ranked third in the world, was chosen as chairman in a secret ballot.

Hormone replacement can rejuvenate men as well as women

THE last eunuch to have served the Chinese Imperial family, who died last week aged 94, and an actor who is as appealing to my 50-year-old female patients as he is to their 25-year-old daughters, are linked by the influence of a lack of testosterone has had on their lives.

Nobody would doubt that poor Sun Yao-feng, whose testes were removed by his father wielding a cut-throat razor when he was eight, had been short of testosterone all his life. It is, however, hard to

believe that nature, and the ageing process, have similarly deprived Charles Dance of an adequate supply of the same hormone. But he claims — and his doctors agree — that the male menopause has done just that. Testosterone supplies the virility to the physical and psychological make-up of a man; sharpens the competitive edge to his professional endeavours; adds spice to his social life; and is the basis of his libido.

Malcolm Carruthers, a consultant chemical pathologist,



has made a speciality of the study of male hormonal problems. He has contrasted the tall, thin, eunuchoid build, like that of Sun Yao-feng when he was younger, with that of Napoleon Bonaparte, who was highly sexed in his youth. As a young man Napoleon

was stocky, robust, hirsute and — there is sculptural evidence — well endowed sexually. In middle age, however, he appeared to have suffered the male menopause, genital atrophy and, presumably, impotence.

Dr Carruthers has for many

years advocated that men, as well as women, need hormone replacement in middle age and that, given this, they would keep their physical and mental powers more youthful and preserve their sex lives.

Testosterone is now available as an injection, in tablets (which are not always effective), or as a slow-release skin patch. The skin patch, worn like a sticking plaster applied to a hairless part of the body, provides a regular supply of testosterone which compensates for the falling testes.

Caution is needed. Cancer of the prostate, a common disease in older men, is hormone-dependant, and falling testosterone levels in the elderly may protect men from its ravages. Before embarking on rejuvenation, it is essential that the state of this potentially lethal gland, the prostate, should be assessed.

Those who should not take testosterone can resort to another piece of Dr Carruthers' advice and adopt an aphrodisiac menu. Champagne, followed by a starter

which should include goat's cheese, a main course of steak with buttered new potatoes, and salad, and finally a chocolate pudding topped with walnuts, will apparently do wonders for both the male and female libido. Dr Carruthers assures us that this is the ideal meal and, as a chemical pathologist, he should understand the science which accounts for his judgment.

DR THOMAS
STUTTAFFORD

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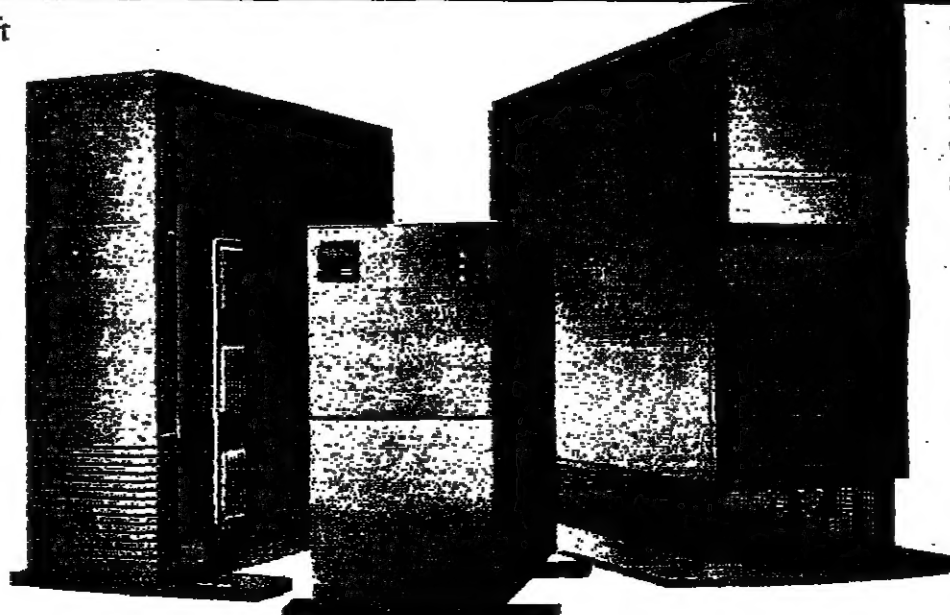
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مركز من الأصل

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

"It is one of the best days of my life. I had a good feeling in my legs and my back and it all came easily. I have never



FROM MARK FULLER
IN AMSTERDAM

There is nothing like this 125-mile event to impress the normally phlegmatic Dutch. More than a million spectators followed the event directly, and another 9.2 million — 65 per cent of the population — watched live television coverage of the race, which follows the frozen waterways and lakes linking 11 towns in the northern region.

ince of Friesland. Mr Angenent switched from riding to competitive skating as his main sport only in 1990 and previously had never raced in marathons longer than 100 kilometres. The young farmer from Alphen aan den Rijn, near The Hague, showed immense strength and composure to defeat the race favourite Erik Hulzebosch in a nail-biting sprint finish. Mr Angenent completed the grueling course in 6 hours 40

minutes and 18 seconds. His average speed was just under 18mph.

There is no prize money. But financial reward did not motivate Mr Angenot or the 300 other racers and more than 16,000 "enthusiasts" who took part in the marathon, which has gained mythical status since it started in 1909.

The winner is guaranteed fame and Mr Angenot, who received a congratulatory telegram from Queen Beatrix

The race went off without any serious hitches, although the decision to go ahead was taken only on Thursday. But the worst cold spell in a decade and a skin-piercing icy wind decimated the field; half the skaters failed to complete the course. A 57-year-old man died from a heart attack and hundreds of skaters were treated for fractures, facial injuries, frostbite and exhaustion.

FROM DAVID WATTS
IN SAMARKAND.

He remembers his friends called up to collection points in Tashkent at dead of night for the invasion of Afghanistan. "They were just given their rifles and told to remember their military oaths. They knew nothing of how to fight in mountains or deserts. They were just massacred." Men like that are not remembered by the Soviet Army and relations were forbidden to open

Uluhg Beg was a great astronomer whose observatory remains as a museum outside Samarkand today. He mapped the heavens with extraordinary accuracy, calculating the co-ordinates of 1,018 stars just as Avicenna can be regarded as the father of modern Western medicine. He lived from 980-1037 and his *Medical Canon* was translated into Latin in 1543, becoming a textbook for Western medicine until the 19th century. But perhaps he did not have Tamerlane's panache.

FROM ROBIN LODGE
IN MOSCOW

Western governments see Mr Yeltsin's resumption of full power as providing an impetus for resolving the Nato problem. While many Russian officials are reconciled to the inevitability of former Warsaw Pact members joining the alliance, some senior officials have insisted at counter-measures, including new military pacts with Asian states.

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU
IN NICOSIA

TURKEY, responding angrily to a planned sale by Russia of an advanced air-defence system to Cyprus, accused the Greek Cypriots of mounting an arms build-up on the divided island which it said was undermining peace.

says that the anti-aircraft missile system is for defensive purposes. Its 11,500-strong guard is outnumbered by 30,000 Turkish troops in northern Cyprus and Turkish jets can reach the island within four minutes.

Cypriot officials agree that the deal, signed in Nicosia on Saturday, is designed to ensure that the international

The Greek Cypriots say they will halt their arms purchases once Turkey complies with United Nations resolutions by withdrawing its forces from northern Cyprus.

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Ipwich	Posthouse	£76	Mastick Bath	The New Bath Hotel	£98	Brighouse	Posthouse	£118
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Conventry	The Coventry Hill Hotel*	£78	Ramsley	The White Horse	£98	Redbush	Posthouse	£118
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Derby/Burton	Posthouse	£78	Southwell	The Saracen's Head	£98	Alfriston	The Star Inn	£118
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Reading	Posthouse	£82	Nowrath	Posthouse	£102	Rye	The George	£118
Basildon	Posthouse	£82	Carlisle	Posthouse	£104	Stratford-upon-Avon	Posthouse	£118
Glasgow City	Posthouse	£84	Warrington/Wilmslow	Posthouse	£104	Leeds	Chaucer Hotel	£120
Manchester City	Posthouse	£84	Yeovil	The Manor Hotel*	£104	Exeter	The Southgate*	£120
Nottingham City	Posthouse	£84	Cardiff Penryn	Posthouse	£106	Ross-on-Wye	The Royal	£120
Preston	Posthouse	£84	Chippierfield	The Two Brewers Inn†	£106			
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FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

MADONNA, erstwhile siren of music videos and provoker of the Roman Catholic Church, plans to stop her new baby daughter watching television and will encourage her to read the Bible.

The iconoclastic pop star, who plays the role of Eva Perón in the film *Evita*, tells *She* magazine that she intends to

"People are extremely judgmental of me and my choice to have a child and not be married, as if I am the first person to do it," she says in the February's issue. "The important thing is to love. That happens with a marriage, without a marriage, with a single parent, whatever."

failed marriage with the actor Sean Penn, has no plans to marry Carlos Leon, the father of her baby, Lourdes. The star has already ditched friends she considers too frivolous and says she will restrict her daughter's television-watching. "TV is poison," she declares. "To be plopped in front of a TV instead of being read to, talked to or encouraged to interact with other human beings is a huge mistake... that happens to a lot of children."



Madonna, 38, who had an earlier

The DISCOVERY DIET GUIDE

Food scientists now believe that diets should be tailored to the individual. All this week The Times will help you to find out what's wrong with your eating habits and which foods are right for you



Does science have the answer?

WE ARE regularly assailed by new eating philosophies, never more urgently than just after the traditional Christmas binge. These philosophies range from full-blown diets which promise instant weight loss through to occasional bulletins from the Department of Health imploring the public to eat more fresh food.

Celebrities also have a lot to answer for. When Elizabeth Hurley said that she was a devotee of food combining, in which different food types such as proteins or carbohydrates are eaten in specific permutations, this revelation was dissected in detail and no doubt inspired many others

to try it. However, one dominant trend is emerging. Food scientists no longer assume that a diet that works for one person will work for everyone. Indeed, research published by the *British Medical Journal* last week shows that diets based on counting calories are less effective than those which concentrate on the types of food eaten.

Blanket dietary advice is out, and in its place has come nutritional advice specific to the individual. The field of nutritional therapy — founded on the premise that each person is biochemically unique and has different sustenance requirements — is booming. The concept that diets should

be tailored to individuals ties in with more academic studies on the way we eat, or should be eating.

The latest research has indicated that individuals vary widely in their biochemical responses to food, and this is down to the balance of different proteins in each person.

One important implication is that if you want to eat foods that are good for you, then don't necessarily look to government guidelines. And, since the production of proteins is regulated by our genetic make-up, it stands to reason that our diets should be dictated by our DNA.

This most pioneering research has been

carried out by Dr Gary Williamson, head of cellular metabolism and enzymology at the Institute for Food Research in Norwich. He has shown that when human liver cells are fed chemicals found naturally in vegetables, they show a huge variation in biochemical response.

Dr Williamson's research has focused on fruit and vegetables, which should make up a substantial part of a healthy diet. For example, broccoli, onion and garlic are known to stimulate production of a protective chemical called γ -alpha. Natural levels in the body can vary thirtyfold across the population. "That is why it is more important for people at the lowest end of the scale to eat more of these vegetables," says Dr Williamson.

This is very simple, but scientifically rigorous proof that the same diet can have different effects on different people. One has only to look at a population of thriving centenarians for further evidence — many appear to put their longevity down to cigarettes, whisky or fat-laden fry-ups, while that lifestyle clearly puts other people at risk.

So how do we go about finding out what we should eat? Dr Williamson has a radical view of the future. He says: "I wouldn't be surprised if, in ten years, we could walk into a supermarket and get a biochemical test done. Then you could

'In ten years we could have biochemical tests at the supermarket to determine what we should buy'

adapt your diet accordingly. It isn't far-fetched by any means. That's what people said about cholesterol tests, and these are now routinely done by GPs and used to give dietary advice."

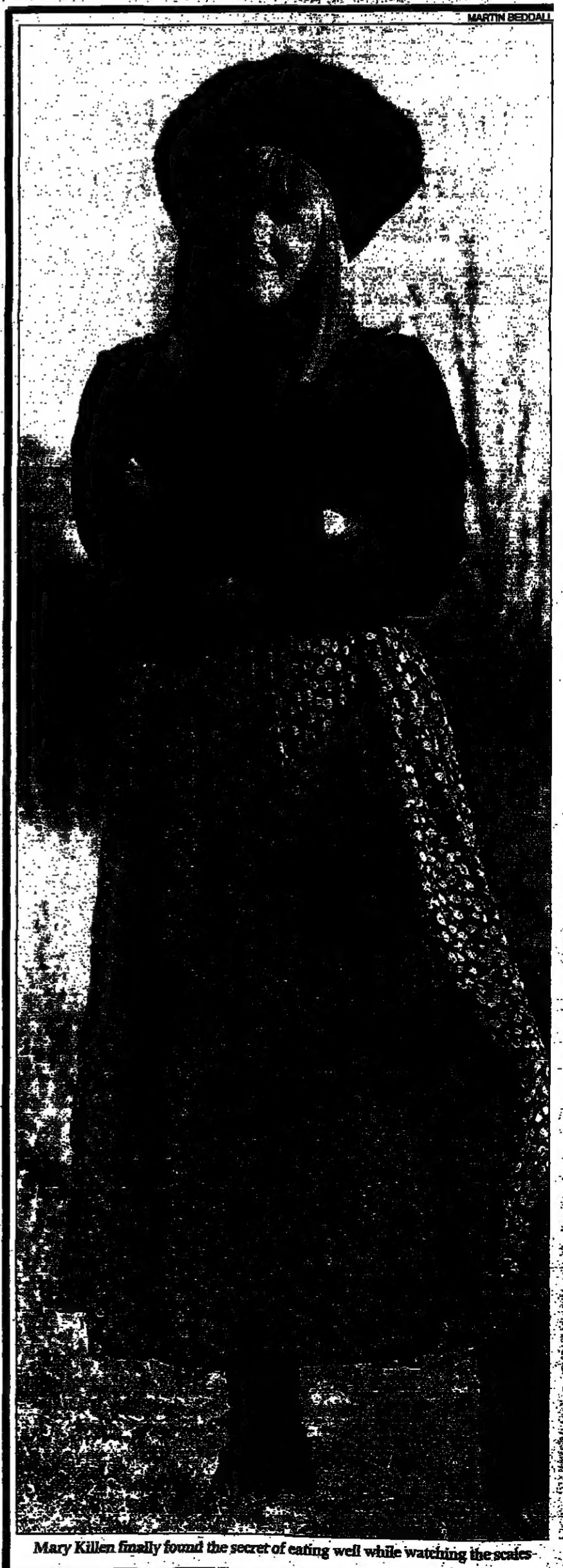
But ten years is a long time. This is where the nutritional therapist comes in. Equipped with an impressive armoury of laboratory tests, he or she can already offer this brand of made-to-measure eating plan. And many of these plans go further than weight loss — some therapists claim to be able to cure maladies. Their advice ranges from the general right through to vitamin and mineral supplements and recipes.

People turn to nutritional therapy for many reasons — perhaps they have developed a food intolerance, prefer not to take drugs or feel that conventional medicine has failed them. They will often be given more time by a therapist than by a GP, and there is undoubtedly an element of taking responsibility when a diet, rather than a drug, is prescribed. A visit may be prompted purely by a desire to boost health and energy.

Whatever the reason, the rise in nutritional therapy is undeniable. The Society for the Promotion of Nutritional Therapy, which was set up only five years ago, boasts 2,000 members, of whom 700 are accredited practitioners. Many are doctors, nurses and clinical nutritionists.

The society's work received a boost recently when a government study showed that the vitamin and mineral supplements so favoured by nutritional therapists were safe. "We get 2,000 inquiries a year," says Linda Lazarides, SPNT's director. "It is certainly becoming better known because people are seeking more natural ways of looking after themselves."

ANJANA AHUJA



Mary Killen finally found the secret of eating well while watching the scales

PRODUCT RECALL

Frozen ASDA Vegetable Lasagne - 400g

A very small number of frozen ASDA Vegetable Lasagnes may wrongly contain a vegetable bake, of which one of the ingredients is cashew nuts.

Whilst the vegetable bake is wholesome and safe to eat, customers, particularly those allergic to nuts, should return the product to their nearest ASDA store for a full refund.

The affected frozen lasagne has a best before date of **November 1997**. The reference code **ERK 63161** is printed on top of the box in the bottom right hand corner.

All other frozen lasagnes stocked by ASDA are unaffected by this announcement.

ASDA

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Radiant with health at 54, Gudrun Jonsson says: "People are waking up to the importance of preventing illness through adapting their lifestyle and diet."

'I lost weight and cleared my mind'

AFTER being hideously bulky for about two years, despite consuming roughly a third of the calories as my penitential friends, I finally found the secret of eating as much as I want while still losing weight. I was delighted that I wrote an article explaining how I did it in the August 1993 issue of *Harpers & Queen*.

A nutritionist, reflexologist and biopathologist named Gudrun Jonsson had told me that my bulkiness and almost non-existent bowel movements had nothing to do with allergies; I was simply "sensitive" to certain foodstuffs, such as dairy products. It was not my fault that I had blown up like a balloon.

Following her instructions, yet still eating more than I had for years, I lost 23lb in four months.

The article seemed to strike a chord, perhaps because it was then almost unheard of to blame a "syndrome" rather than personal inadequacy for one's defects. Gudrun was so besieged by people wanting "consultations" that her superphone soon announced, in slightly perturbed tones, that there were no more appointments for at least six months.

She told me I had a "toxic gut" which was fermenting. "And when you put in dairy products, you make more fermentation," she said. Wheat and yeast also contributed to fermentation and I was told to avoid them, too.

I hardly ever went to the loo, so everything I ate was neither being used as energy, nor being expelled as waste, but trapped in a seething pit of fermentation. How had I created this "toxic gut"? Gudrun explained that stress is a contributory factor. It results in food being serially gobbled in a panicky way because of tension, then not properly processed as the digestive juices have not been triggered by correct chewing.

Antibiotics can strip the natural flora of the gut and once the blockage has begun, ill-advised food combinations aggravate the problem. Hay dieters will know that protein and starch should be eaten separately, otherwise the digestive juices needed to break them down — one acid and one alkali — are triggered at the same time and neutralise each other.

Fruit eaten with other food causes similar problems. Too much fibre-free food means that the waste is not expelled properly. All these factors, particularly the latter, lead to toxic gut and, consequently, low energy levels, said Gudrun.

I was to avoid wheat, yeast, dairy

products, tomatoes, orange juice, coffee, sugar and chocolate. Gudrun was one of the first people in this country to identify oranges, milk and chocolate as "enemies of the system".

Some people may have scoffed at the idea in 1993, but a study soon to be published in the *Journal of Nutritional Medicine* reveals that persistent crime offenders frequently cannot tolerate certain foods and are allergic to others. "Bananas and oranges have been singled out as mood-altering — along with other everyday foods such as milk, potatoes and apricots. Even chocolate is guilty of triggering aggressive, unpredictable behaviour in some people according to the research," it was reported last month.

Gudrun prescribed some homeopathic mixtures "to wake up the system

'Oranges, milk and chocolate are considered to be enemies of the digestive system and are best avoided'

before eating, to make you sleep well so as to help the recovery process, and to reintroduce bacterial flora to the gut."

I also consumed five cups of hot water with lemon and ginger. In no time my bowel movements were regular and my mind was less foggy.

MY HUSBAND, who is a very good cook and who generally prepares our food, paid no attention when I first began to follow this "latest neurotic diet", as he called it. A man who, depending on what he has been eating, swings between looking like Robert Redford or Timothy Spall — was going through a Timothy Spall stage in those days.

At first he was annoyed when I wouldn't join him in shepherd's pie or chicken curry, but when he saw that the weight was dropping off even though I was still eating reasonable amounts of food, he became interested. A typical day's intake for me would include oat bran

porridge for breakfast, flavoured with maple syrup, five wheat, yeast- and sugar-free oatcakes mid-morning, baked potato, olive oil and salad for lunch, and hot vegetable stock at intervals until the evening. Then three glasses of wine (although Gudrun advised two) and stir-fry vegetables with chicken or lamb with swede or celeriac (neither of which counts as starch) for supper.

My husband, an asthmatic who also suffered from indigestion, soon joined me on the diet. He lost two stones in two months and did not need his Ventolin inhaler again.

WHEN I first went to Gudrun I had also been trying to have a second baby, with no success. Gudrun felt that "nothing will stick there while you have this toxic gut" but she said that in a few months "we can get you pregnant".

Four months after that first meeting I was indeed expecting a baby. And I had dropped from 11st 5lb to 10st. I followed Gudrun's diet throughout the pregnancy and was 11st 7lb just before having the baby in January 1994. I was 10st 7lb after the birth. I should have been able to complete the trajectory which had been interrupted and continue downwards until I was about 8st 10lb — the ideal weight for someone who is 5ft 4in.

I stick to Gudrun's eating instructions as often as I can. I buy Russian rye bread, available from Waitrose. I eat starch and protein separately. I avoid tomatoes, oranges and sugar. But when you have a two-year-old who drinks a lot of hot milk and you are constantly tasting it, plus making wheat and yeast snacks for her and her nine-year-old sister and absent-mindedly licking your fingers...

More to the point, when you are constantly on tour as I am — my husband is a landscape painter and we travel a lot, staying with different people and eating their undesirable mixtures such as fish pie which contains wheat, yeast, dairy products and an unsuitable food combination of starch and protein, then it is difficult.

But three years on from a diet, it is not bad to be still 1st 6lb lighter than you were before, given that so many dieters balloon back to their original size. I remind myself that I am not nearly as hideous as I was, and the awful listless fog which once clouded my brain has gone — hopefully for ever.

MARY KILLEN

RECIPES FOR DRINKS THAT HELP TO CLEANSE THE BODY

THERE is no definitive method for detoxifying the body: each person reacts differently. Sudden detoxification can lead to severe headaches, skin irritations and bad breath. For this reason Gudrun is reluctant to prescribe a specific exclusion diet, though she is happy to recommend some cleansing drinks to help to detoxify the system.

- 1) Mix one whole lemon in a blender with olive oil and water to create a system-cleansing drink.
- 2) Simmer olive leaves in water for about 12 hours, drain liquid and drink in the morning to cleanse the liver.
- 3) Warm water with lemon and ginger.
- 4) Cider vinegar, mixed with warm water.

Oranges: "Enemies of the system"

Lemons: for cleansing the body

GLOSSARY

GREEN ENERGY: The energy received from algae.

UDO'S DIGESTIVE ENZYME: Contains all the enzymes required to break down and metabolise fat, carbohydrate, soluble fibre, starch, milk and sugar.

UDO'S OIL: A blend of natural oils rich in lecithin, which provides the building materials for healthy cell membranes.

UDO'S MISSING LINK: A nutrient-rich, high-fibre product to improve nutrition.

CAL-MC: Soluble form of calcium and magnesium.

L-GLUTAMINE: An amino acid and the primary fuel of the digestive lining and the immune system.

OXYFLEX: A mineral food supplement which boosts the metabolism and immune system.

Gut reaction that can lead you to better health

IN THE study of Gudrun Jonsson's flat in west London is a biotron. It is a machine that sits on a table next to a large battered black chair, like the one used in *Mastermind*. The biotron is small and unremarkable and you scarcely notice it as you enter Ms Jonsson's study, but it is indispensable to her work as a biopath.

"Sit down, take off your socks and hold this," she says, handing you a metal rod that stretches on a long lead from the biotron. She then presses a pencil-shaped stylus, also attached to the machine, against numerous acupuncture points on your hands and feet.

"I am measuring the electrical charges coming from your body to test your energy levels," she says. "This offers a guide to which organs are active and which inactive and to the origins of any problems you have. We need to establish the extent of the toxicity of your gut. But if your digestive system is perfect, your health is normally perfect, too."

Toxic guts, fermentation, biotrons — the world of alternative medicine generates an exotic and arcane vocabulary. But Ms Jonsson is no crank. Her inclusive approach to weight problems and stress-induced illness — combining homeopathy, nutritional advice and reflexology — has had remarkable results. Her patients include actors, artists, media tycoons, newspaper editors and numerous royals.

Although often described as "the Duchess of York's food guru", she bristles when asked about the duchess. She denounces Madame Vasso, the disgraced faith healer from Greece who published her taped telephone conversations with the duchess in a book, *The Duchess of York Uncensored*.

"I never discuss my clients. I think what Madame Vasso did was an ultimate betrayal of the trust that her client had put in her."

Gudrun Jonsson is a tall, striking Swede. At 54, she wears no make-up and has a flawless complexion. Her blonde hair is thick and healthy. But she did not always look so radiant. Twenty years ago, she says, she was "badly overweight, chronically constipated and had bad skin". Her hair was also falling out. "I remember combing my hair and whole chunks coming out in my hands."

She feels her deteriorating health was a symptom, not only of a disordered life but of decades of bad eating. Born in Sweden in 1943, the daughter of a farmer, she grew up in Ortrask, a remote village in the far north. The spectacular but severe landscape of her childhood — with its long, dark winters and thick mists — contributed to her poor diet.

"We were a typical northern European family. We never had many vegetables. I continued to eat badly when I moved to England. I would never have taken charge of my body if I hadn't started

losing my hair. After that, I started studying diet, eating better and generally looking after myself."

The loss of her hair coincided with a difficult phase in her life. Before moving to London in 1971, she worked as a primary school teacher in Stockholm. She originally came to London to join her boyfriend, but that relationship ended only three weeks after her arrival.

Her pride stopped her returning immediately to Sweden. So began her restless years, working in restaurants and hotels, as a chauffeur and a travel agent, and as head of a company manufacturing jeans in Manchester. She also had a brief, unsuccessful marriage.

"I don't regret anything about those years," she says. "My husband was a nice man but I was his third wife and he is now on his fifth. As for all the jobs, well, I like to think that without those experiences I would not have been able to understand people's problems."

Biopathy was founded by Kurt Nickson, a Danish author and therapist, who took many of his ideas from existing therapies in Germany. Ms Jonsson was intrigued by the therapy after reading about it in a book she received for Christmas. She saved some money to pay for her training in Denmark.

"I WAS attracted to biopathy because it aims to activate the self-healing forces within each individual through the combined use of natural treatments and remedies," she says. "People are waking up to the importance of preventing illness through adapting their lifestyle and diet. Reducing your stress level is a good example of a simple precaution people can take."

Ms Jonsson is a person who makes you feel good. She laughs continually: her conversation is engaging.

Looking back over her early years in London, Gudrun has few regrets. Though she spends most nights in the week alone, she never feels lonely. Her weekends are shared with friends in the country, where she swims and relaxes. She says: "If you work closely with people all day, you need time alone to recover your sense of perspective. I think it would take a special man to put up with my daily routine."

And what a routine. On waking she has a cup of warm water with added lemon and ginger, followed by a cold bath and some stretching exercises. The morning and afternoon are spent with patients, but the evening is hers in which to read, relax and meditate. The day ends with another bath — a warm one this time, laced with homeopathic potions.

For more information write to Gudrun Jonsson, Flat 2, 73 Holland Road, London W14 8HL. Please enclose an A4 stamped addressed envelope.

JASON COWLEY

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Jason Cowley examines six case-studies where a balanced diet has helped to transform patients' lifestyles...

Putting lives back into balance

GUDRUN JONSSON's treatments aim to identify the underlying cause of the problem, and to achieve results within three months.

Each patient is put on a course of acidophilus, which aids digestion and balances "intestinal ecology". She also uses homeopathic preparations (see glossary) and encourages them to drink one and a half litres of water per day. Patients must cut out wheat, potatoes, chocolate, sugar, cheese and fine-grain rice, and reduce coffee and tea drinking.

The disruptive schoolboy

Profile: Adam, aged 9, tall, medium build.

Presenting problem: weight, headaches, poor concentration, bad temper.

Underlying problem: taking antibiotics since the age of three. A craving for chocolate and junk food. Chronically constipated.

Treatment/diet plan: a gluten-free diet. Nuts, chocolate, sugar oranges and potatoes forbidden.

Recommended: for breakfast, oatbran porridge. Lunch and dinner — variations of chicken, vegetables and rice. Fruit, and snacks from health food shops. Apple juice was added to Adam's water. He also took dried vinegar in capsule form at night and unsaturated oils and multivitamin supplements. Occasionally he took homeopathic complexes to calm his tension at night.

Outcome: after two months headaches disappeared and concentration improved. He became more co-operative at school. He lost weight and his bowel movements became more regular.

Gudrun's comment: "In cases involving difficult children, especially those away at boarding school, it is necessary to have the full backing of his or her family and school. Adam responded to his mother's love and patience."

The depressed teenage girl

Profile: Louise, aged 16, 13st, medium height and build.

Presenting problem: weight and depression.

Underlying problem: constipated, low blood sugar and low self-esteem.

Treatment: breakfast, oatbran with linseed oil and cooked apple, goat's/sheep's yoghurt. Packed lunch: Louise bought a wide-mouthed vacuum flask in which she put chicken and vegetable stew, occasionally thickened with oatbran. Early supper: fish or chicken, a selection of vegetables, with fresh herbs, olive oil and lemon. Before bed: stewed apple/prune with a little yoghurt. Also a variety of green energy capsules, and perhaps a ta-



Changing lives: Gudrun Jonsson emphasises the virtues of balanced, healthy eating and improved digestion for people of all ages

blespoon of Missing Link with stewed apple. **Comment:** "After two weeks Louise felt her lost energy returning, which in turn improved her self-esteem. After six months she was two stone lighter. Most important was that she regained her confidence."

The harassed schoolteacher

Profile: Alice, age 27, 12st, short.

Presenting problem: weight, inflamed skin and cystitis.

Underlying problem: she had been taking antibiotics for more than a decade. Blood sugar was extremely low — encouraging her to binge on chocolate. Stressful

job, and history of irritable bowel syndrome.

Treatment: breakfast — grated warm apple, with Missing Link and Udo's oil. Mid-morning: green energy capsule, plus a warm drink. Lunch: vegetable soup, with a little protein. Supper: protein and vegetables. Because Alice could not tolerate gluten she tried different grains, such as brown rice, quinoa or millet.

Outcome: she lost 2½ stone in four months and her skin condition improved. She continues to take bacteria flora, Missing Link and Udo's oil. **Comment:** "It was vital for her to see the importance of eating a little and often, and to have warm drinks between meals. I increased her intake of fluid to 1.5 litres per day. When her job is stressful, I encouraged her to use homeopathic preparations to cope."

The high-flying banker

Profile: Simon, age 47, 6ft, slim.

Presenting problem: middle-age spread, dry skin.

Underlying problem: craves sweet foods, slightly constipated. Exercises for two hours each day, monitors his calories. Eats only one meal, usually with clients at a late hour.

Treatment: breakfast — oatbran flakes, an apple, and a glass of non-sweet fruit juice. A quarter of a tablespoon of Udo's oil, progressing, after two weeks, to half a tablespoon of oil. Mid-morning: green energy capsules and warm drink. Lunch: digestive enzymes. Small piece of protein

and vegetables. Dinner: digestive enzymes. Fish or chicken with vegetables, a beetroot capsule to assist the liver and added lemon and dill to his evening meal. Before bed: bath, with added CAL-M capsules. Breathing exercises to aid relaxation.

Results: Simon lost just under a stone and he began to relax more.

Comment: "With the return to a normal energy level, he realised how stressed and tired he had been."

The woman on an antibiotic cocktail

Profile: Mary, age 76.

Presenting problem: weight — thin arms and legs but a barrel-shaped stomach.

Underlying problem: for many years she had taken antibiotics, slimming preparations and drugs. She had tried most diets, had had hepatitis three times and was regularly constipated.

Treatment: breakfast — three tablespoons of stewed apple with Missing Link and digestive enzymes. Mid-morning: cup of chicken stock. Lunch: steamed vegetables and a little protein. Beetroot capsule. Mid-afternoon: green energy capsule, half a tablespoon of Missing Link, with either papaya or an apple and goat's yoghurt. Supper: a light meal of protein and vegetables, with digestive enzymes and HCL pepsin. Before bed: CAL-M and homeopathic preparations. Half a tablespoon of L-glutamine three times per day.

Comment: "I advised Mary to eat no portion of food that was larger than the volume of her hands when cupped together. She had to alter the habits of a lifetime."

The career woman who wants children

Profile: Katie, age 35, 12st 2lb, 5ft 6in.

Presenting problem: inability to conceive.

Underlying problem: weight carried from waist down — hips, thighs, buttocks, legs. Constipation, dry skin, headaches, insomnia, panic attacks.

Treatment: on waking she drank a ginger and lemon infusion. Breakfast: fruits with a tablespoon of yoghurt, soaked linseed, digestive enzyme. In between meals, two Oxyflex capsules. Lunch: fish with salad or grilled vegetables. Mixture of Udo's oil, lemon and green herbs on her salad. Mid-afternoon: warm ginger and lemon drink, plus soaked apricot with a couple of almonds and goat-milk yoghurt. If working late, low-salt vegetable stock cube and a green energy capsule. Dinner: chicken or fish, vegetables and herbs and ginger. Also a beetroot capsule (for iron), together with a digestive enzyme and her acidophilus. Before bed: CAL-M and a warm drink.

Outcome: after the first month she had lost just under a stone in weight but was still not pregnant. A month later, she had lost a further four pounds; had improved posture, was less constipated and her skin was not so dry. After three months, she had lost an additional four pounds and her physical appearance had improved. She then took an overdue holiday. Several weeks after this she found that she was pregnant.

Comment: "Katie was highly competitive, and worked in an extremely stressful environment. Whenever she had a hint of a cold, she took antibiotics. She also suffered from severe post-menstrual tension. Once she had completely changed her life, she found that she was able to conceive. During her pregnancy she continued to come to see me; her baby is now a healthy, large two-year-old boy."

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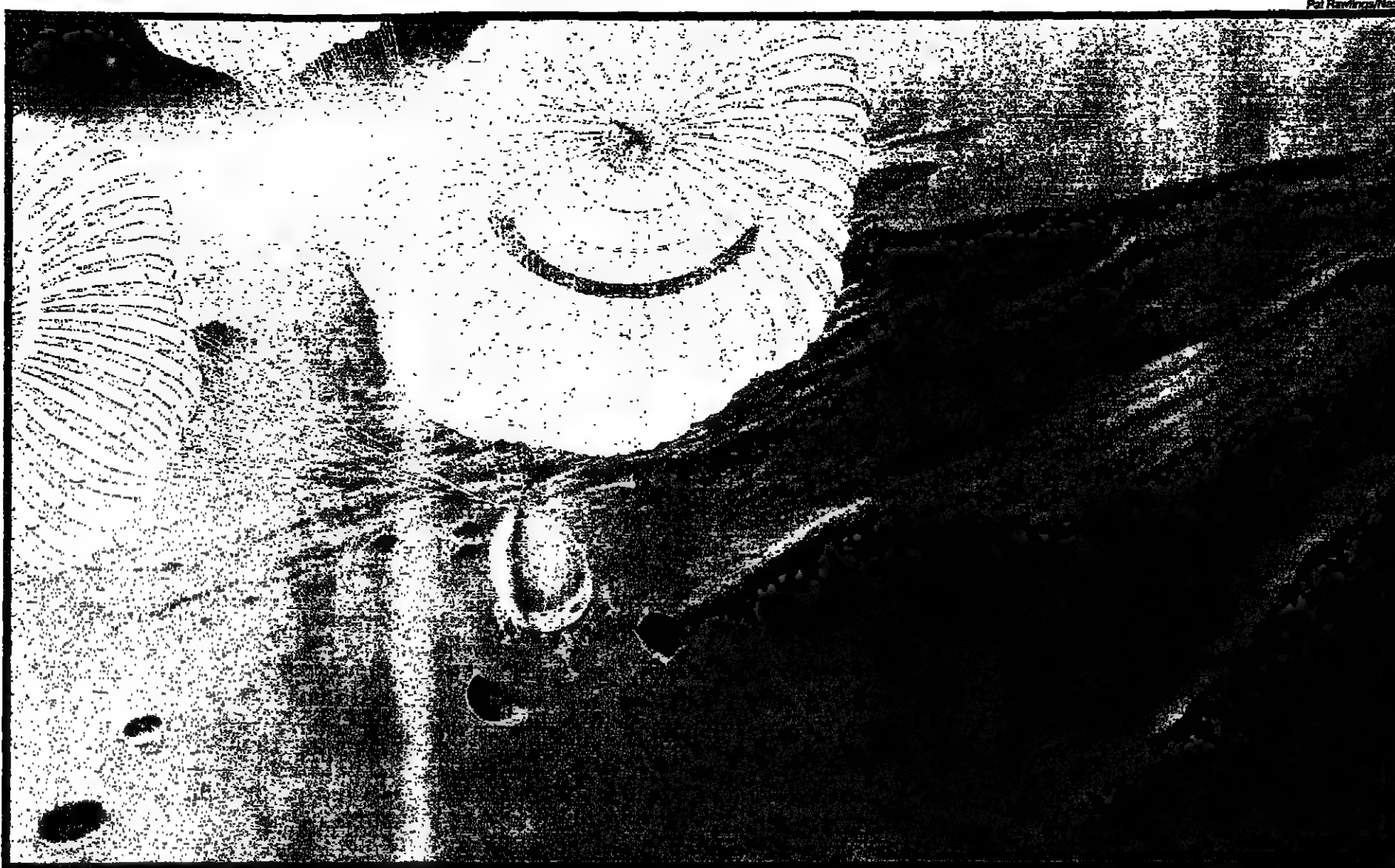
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Giles Whittell on Nasa's plans to send astronauts to Mars and Nigel Hawkes on dangers to interplanetary voyagers



Mars landing: the painting *Descent into the Chasma* portrays how the fall of the expedition to the Ganges Chasma floor is slowed by the spacecraft's main parachutes

Next stop, the Red Planet

Wanted: interplanetary guinea-pigs willing to go without fresh air, gravity and probably sex for three years. Must be fit and unflappable, with at least a master's degree in engineering or applied science. Successful applicants will be in close proximity to nuclear power plants for long periods and must remain calm while hurtling through space at 27,000mph. Years of medical testing and media exposure will be inevitable should you survive.

Not yet. But sooner than you might think. As a new wave of unmanned American probes heads for Mars, and an ill-starred Russian one sits at the bottom of the Pacific, Nasa's chief, Daniel Goldin, has said he has no fixed plans yet for sending people after them. But this does not mean no such plans exist. They do, and they are extraordinarily detailed.

Since claiming to have found traces of Martian life in an asteroid, Nasa has made available an engrossing 33-page booklet, *Human Mars Exploration*, that makes getting there sound safer than choosing a nanny. There are only two problems, according to Donna Shirley, of the space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. "It's a three-year round trip, no matter how you slice it," she says. And it's expensive.

When President Bush declared that America should aim to put people on

Mars by the year 2019, Nasa said it would cost a staggering \$400 billion (£266 billion). President Clinton has so far stopped short of repeating the challenge, since such sums were not to be talked of in an election year. His tacit message to scientists has been: come up with something cheaper.

They have. In the name of value-for-money, Nasa has all but abandoned the notion of a "plant-the-flag" trip designed simply to get to Mars and back as fast as possible. The latest plan, honed for public consumption by David Weaver and Michael Duke, of Houston's Johnson Space Centre, puts astronauts on the Red Planet for a daunting 30-month stint of roving, mining and refuelling, with plenty of time to hunt for Martian life-forms.

The plan is based around one cost-cutting idea: make most of the fuel for the return journey on Mars. Scientists agree that the principle of using liquid hydrogen brought from Earth to extract methane and liquid oxygen from carbon dioxide in Mars's atmosphere is simple enough. Based on the so-called Sabatier process, it follows straightforward chemical equations and would have water as its only by-product.

The mission would unfold as follows: blasting off on top of a conventional Delta rocket in September 2007, the astronauts' empty

return module would head for Mars and park in orbit above the distant planet one year and 450 million miles later. (As the Apollo programme proved, a single burn of a booster is enough to keep a capsule coasting along almost indefinitely at seven to eight miles a second. In this case "nuclear thermal" engines would be used to escape Earth's orbit, then jettisoned on a course that would not encounter Earth or Mars for at least 10 million years — or so we are assured.)

Closely following the out-bound return module in the autumn of 2007 would be two more unmanned cargo vehicles, both designed to slow down in Mars's orbit and release landing craft into Ganges Chasma, a deep canyon near the planet's equator. Once there, one cargo pod would deploy a nuclear-powered chemical plant to spend the next two years creating the 30 cubic metres of rocket fuel necessary to return a crew to Mars's orbit. The other, a "surface habitat/laboratory", would sit and wait for human beings.

In late 2009, three more payloads head for Mars. The first two are identical to the first 2007 launches, providing back-up in the event of mishaps and extra resources for future missions. The last contains six astronauts, cooped up for six months

in a two-storey cylinder not much bigger than a removal van.

In an exquisite understatement the Weaver/Duke plan admits that "in the transits to Mars, the chief problems will be concerned with maintaining interpersonal relationships needed for crew productivity... Mental health as well as physical health will be crucial."

Nobody knows for certain how to stop astronauts going stir-crazy on their way to Mars. They may have to rely on CD-Roms and Sony Walkmans. Sanity permitting, they will slide into an elliptical Martian orbit in mid-2010, using the planet's outer atmosphere as an "aerobrake". Parachutes and retro-rockets lower them gently into Ganges Chasma next to the habitat put there two years earlier. Joined by an airlock, these two pods form the crew's base for the next 500 days — roughly a Martian year.

What happens next depends on what our emissaries find, but Nasa's graphics department makes it look like a space-suited Outward Bound adventure. Long-range rovers let the crew stray up to 500km from base in their hunt for useful resources and signs of life beneath the planet's frigid crust. They could even abseil down the east face of Olympus Mons, a volcano the size of Arizona thought to contain answers to some of the mysteries of Martian geology.

In October, 2011, they head for home. Leaving behind an intact base, a tiny rocket-powered ascent vehicle docks with the larger return module which by this time has been in orbit round Mars for nearly four years. Six months later the astronauts re-enter Earth's atmosphere much as their lunar predecessors did, and just too late to wish their replacement crew a pleasant trip.

If enough work were farmed out to private contractors, putting a base on Mars along these lines could cost a mere \$18 billion, according to Robert Zubrin, author of the recently published *The Case for Mars*. Perhaps more remarkably, the technology for the entire scheme already exists. As Donna Shirley says, there is no "elusive" "unobtainium".

To keep his scientists' feet on the ground, Daniel Goldin has posted on Nasa's Internet Website some stern prerequisites for a manned Mars mission, including completion of the international space station and the little matter of a global economic upswing. But there is no doubting where the next Neil Armstrong's foot will land. Nasa's "core mission", Congress stated as recently as 1993, "is, and depends upon, the extension of human presence beyond Planet Earth". No one ever gave Columbus such encouragement.

The hazards of travel from Earth to Mars

The first astronauts to visit Mars will face dangers that Nasa has yet to take fully into account, according to an expert group from the US National Research Council.

The long journey will expose them to high radiation doses from cosmic rays, which could cause cancer, cataracts, sterility and brain damage, the council says in its report.

Unless efforts to assess the dangers of exposure to cosmic rays are stepped up, it will be at least 20 years before adequate data is available.

The result will be that Nasa will have to err on the side of caution, surrounding the Martian mission with large amounts of material to absorb the radiation, most likely lithium hydride. That could add as much as \$30 billion to the cost of the mission, the NRC report, commissioned by Nasa, concludes.

Such extra costs could easily torpedo the entire mission, according to Dr Richard Setlow, associate director for life sciences at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, who chaired the NRC committee which prepared the report. "When I first saw those figures I was horrified," he told *New Scientist*.

small fraction of the total risk of space travel. For example, he says, a transatlantic airline pilot could expect over a 25-year career to be exposed to about half the dose experienced by an astronaut on a two-and-a-half year mission to Mars.

Nasa is doing research on the subject, but too slowly, the NRC report says. To gather the data involves using a particle accelerator to expose animals to the same kind of high-energy particles that the astronauts will experience in space.

The panel suggests that animals will have to be exposed to the particles for about 3,000 hours, simulating over a relatively short period the intensity of bombardment the astronauts can expect.

At present, Nasa uses particle accelerators for only 100 or so hours a year, not enough to gather the information, the panel says. It suggests that the agency should consider building its own accelerator, at a cost of about \$15 million, and spend a few tens of millions more doing the experiments. This is far less than the cost of shielding a Mars mission against a worst-case scenario, Dr Setlow says. "Obviously, it would be cheaper to do the experiments."

Astronauts will be exposed to high radiation doses'

Robert Zubrin, an enthusiast for Mars exploration, estimates that cosmic-ray doses for the Mars round-trip would be of the order of 50 rads. This is many times higher than that permitted for radiation workers, never mind ordinary members of the public, but Dr Zubrin argues that it is a

building its own accelerator, at a cost of about \$15 million, and spend a few tens of millions more doing the experiments. This is far less than the cost of shielding a Mars mission against a worst-case scenario, Dr Setlow says. "Obviously, it would be cheaper to do the experiments."

However, the experiments are done, several questions need to be answered: the NRC says, including assessing the risks of cancer, genetic damage and damage to the central nervous system, and whether and how the design of the craft and its shielding can reduce these risks.

Dr Frank Sulzmann, acting deputy director of Nasa's life sciences division, says that tight budgets may make it difficult to find the money for the cosmic-ray safety experiments. "Doing more in one area probably means doing less in another," he says.

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



VISUAL ART

Two new London shows provide the opportunity to assess the latest paintings by Germany's Anselm Kiefer

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



RECITALS

Anthony Payne is the featured composer in the Park Lane Group's Young Artists Series on the South Bank

CONCERTS: All week
REVIEWS: From tomorrow



THEATRE

Hollywood meets rural Ireland in Martin McDonagh's new play at the National, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*

OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



CONCERT

Italian conductor Antonio Pappano makes his concert debut with the LSO conducting Tchaikovsky's Fifth

CONCERT: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

The best essay I have ever read is *My First Acquaintance with Poets* by Hazlitt. I thought so at 16. I have thought so periodically ever since — most recently last Boxing Day. Bacon may be a ground-breaker and the more perfect, Orwell, the latest great British essayist on whom we can have a proper purchase, is the more pertinent. But William Hazlitt tops them all for passion, power and recklessness.

In this essay alone he tells the story of several key encounters in his life — principally his first meetings with the poets Coleridge and Wordsworth. He describes with devoted clarity a father, a dissenting minister, marooned in the country, entombed in the study of *The Commentaries* — huge folios, not easily got through, one of which would outlast a winter; he brings to life the conversation of Coleridge, our most philosophical poet; he leads us into a foreign society of week-long walks by young new male friends with talk as the stimulus; he argues his

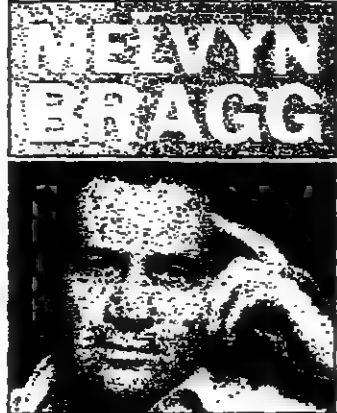
corner on metaphysics; tells us how from "a deep sleep" he came to an ability to articulate "my admiration to others in motley imagery and quaint allusion"; delivers a fusillade of said allusions (which intoxicated me as an adolescent and stuffed my style till it burst like an overdone sausage); reveals both the depths of a young failure — "I was at that time dumb, inarticulate, helpless, like a worm by the wayside, crushed, bleeding, lifeless" — and the great awakening by the poet: "the light of his genius shone into my soul like the sun's rays glittering in the puddles of the road". He twists and turns from ecstasy to utter bleakness of autobiography, and the whole essay flows together in a cataract of clear speaking prose.

He is wrong, too, now and then, which is always comforting in a hero. He describes the face of

Coleridge in detail and ends with the words "but his nose, the ruler of the face, the index of the will, was small, feeble, nothing — like what he has done". This was to underestimate Coleridge's extant poetry and, more pardonably, to ignore the riches which would later be discovered among what seemed a waste of talent but was a prodigality so vast that it blinded the age it addressed.

Hazlitt for me was like Coleridge for Hazlitt. And the exhilaration he expresses for the gratitude he gives to Coleridge I have for years given to Hazlitt.

In one particular instance I made an attempt to repay the debt. Having read his essays on juggling as well as *Rossini*, on boxing as well as Shakespeare, I thought I knew a rounded man who did not cut his subject out of a false sense of intellectual dignity. Twenty



years on from the first reading of Hazlitt I came across *Liber Amoris*. This was a fictional account of a frenzy of love experienced by a middle-aged Hazlitt when he became obsessed by a

young serving girl. A frenzy which led him to divorce, to alienate his son, to distress his friends and delight his enemies. "I am in some sense proud that I can feel this dreadful passion," he wrote. "It makes me a kind of peer in the kingdom of love." The girl would not have him and at the time a friend declared that he was "substantially insane". Even this he turned into writing. "The passions intercept and warp the natural progress of life," he wrote. "They paralyse all that is not devoted to their tyranny and caprice."

I was shocked to read this, about a writer I thought I knew so well. I wrote a novel, *A Time To Dance*, taking the central notion from *Liber Amoris* saying, as I hoped, a tribute to Hazlitt by introducing a lecture about him inside the book. After finishing my novel I realised that far from being an exception in

Hazlitt's life and work, *Liber Amoris* was the key to it.

There are fine essays today and undoubtedly some will survive. There are still rapturous encounters between young disciples and masters, though it seems to me that it happens more often now in films and music than in literature. And there are still writers prepared to hurl their lives into the essay form often thought of as antique, but one which still rides high in the broadsheets and magazines.

None, though, I think, brings so much to bear with the welter of knowledge, the detailed enthusiasm and the exposure of a blighted desperate self as the dissenting minister's son who got up before daylight one bitterly cold January morning 199 years ago to walk the ten miles to Shrewsbury to hear a sermon.

UNDERSTANDABLE glee has been expressed across the country at the news that we are reading more. Moreover, there is the satisfying subtext that this is one in the eye for the philistine television and a biff in the solar plexus for the new monster face replacing it, the Internet.

The news is indeed welcome but is it so very surprising? We have known for ages that television, if anything, encourages book-buying in this country. We know that many more people are in university education and therefore a larger proportion of the population will develop bookish appetites. Add to that early retirement and the first society in which unprecedented numbers are thinking about cultivating their leisure as variously as possible, and the ground is laid.

What kept people back from reading in the good old days was lack of education, lack of opportunity, and exhaustion. A good deal of that is gone. Books could be the 21st century's hot stock.

My first acquaintance with Hazlitt

CINEMA: Once again the British are tipped for top Oscar honours, led by Mike Leigh's *Secrets and Lies*. Matt Wolf on the contenders

Hollywood, here we come

The British presence in America's annual film honours is a reassuring fact, but even in comparison with recent years, Britain's cachet at the moment puts us a league apart. With Oscar nominations still five weeks away, home-grown talent looks set to feature in virtually every category when the prizes are handed out at the end of March.

Not for the first time, Britain is benefiting from a growing feeling that if you want quali-

ty, you've got to go British. Since too much native Hollywood talent is content to shoot itself in the foot (*Jack*, anyone?), how else to explain the critical and commercial failures in America of such anticipated films as *Surviving Picasso*, one of the few Merchant-Ivory projects unlikely to be feted come Oscar time. *That Thing You Do!*, the debut directing effort of two-time Oscar-winner Tom Hanks; and even *Barbra Streisand's The Mirror Has Two Faces*, which has done

decent, but hardly spectacular, business (it opens in Britain on Friday).

Instead, the trade papers are busy trumpeting such unfamiliar — at least in Hollywood — names as Mike Leigh for best director for *Secrets and Lies*, as well as the same film's Brenda Blethyn, and Emily Watson from *Breaking the Waves*, as best actress.

Could Leigh possibly step up to a podium occupied last year by Mel Gibson, the quintessential Hollywood player? Might Blethyn snare the nomination earmarked for perennial nominee Meryl Streep, who is under consideration this year for *Marvin's Room*, an art-house film co-starring Diane Keaton? Stranger things have happened. *Secrets and Lies* swept the prizes at the recent Los Angeles Film Critics Awards ceremony, and at a time when studio films are getting ever more bloated, an independently financed underdog may carry unusual clout.

Leigh isn't the only Hollywood anomaly finding favour across the Atlantic. Paul Scofield won an Oscar in 1966 for *A Man For All Seasons*, only to follow it up with such little-seen esoterica as *A Delicate Balance* and *1919*. In recent years, though, the 74-year-old actor has enjoyed a screen comeback with supporting performances in *Quiz Show* and now *The Crucible*, and Hollywood likes nothing better than an old-timer it can rediscover. (American veterans trading on the same phenomenon include Lauren Bacall and Debbie Reynolds.) Scofield's *Crucible* director, the British opera and theatre director Nicholas Hytner, has the full studio support of Twentieth Century Fox for what is only his second film, and both Hytner and the film's star, Daniel Day-Lewis, would be almost certain Oscar hopefuls if that film — like many others — had not been at least partly eclipsed by yet another year-end release packed with British talent. *The English Patient*.

With seven nominations, Anthony Minghella's adaptation of the Michael Ondaatje novel leads the field for the forthcoming Golden Globes, to be awarded in Los Angeles on January 19. And though Scott Hicks's Australian hit *Shine* is hot on its heels, *The English Patient* may be just the answer for an Academy electorate for whom *Breaking the Waves* and *Secrets and Lies* are too mar-



Could *Secrets and Lies*, which swept the prizes at the recent Los Angeles Film Critics Awards ceremony, win an Oscar for British director Mike Leigh?

ginal (and, in the case of Lars von Trier's film, too weird). In a stronger year, *The English Patient* would be a dark horse up against the Hollywood blockbuster of the moment. But at a *Gump*-less time, the combined glamour of Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas might well prevail, and Minghella's exotic locations won't hurt.

As for Kenneth Branagh's four-hour *Hamlet*, it is too early to predict the film's commercial fate, but if the Golden Globes are any indication, Branagh's acting-directing effort looks unlikely to repeat the Oscar success of Laurence Olivier's 1948 *Hamlet*: despite opening amid

much fanfare on Christmas Day, the Branagh *Hamlet* has been shortlisted for no awards to date.

In terms of competition, Branagh is the first to acknowledge what he is up against. *Secrets and Lies*, he told me in November, "is almost Greek in its impact. It appears to be a small film, but its impact is massive."

Referring to the end-of-year derby that finds selective Britons emerging from a pack of some 30 major films, Hytner says: "It's nuts. I never want to have a movie released at this time again." Although Hytner could be spending these weeks biting his nails by a pool in Los Angeles, he has instead re-

turned to the National Theatre for the first time since 1992 to direct Martin McDonagh's *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, which opens tomorrow night.

"I have to say, one of the attractions of doing this play was that I knew I would be here when *The Crucible* opened," he says. "I wouldn't have to worry about grosses and critics and phone calls and all that. I know that if I were in LA, there would be nothing else to talk about."

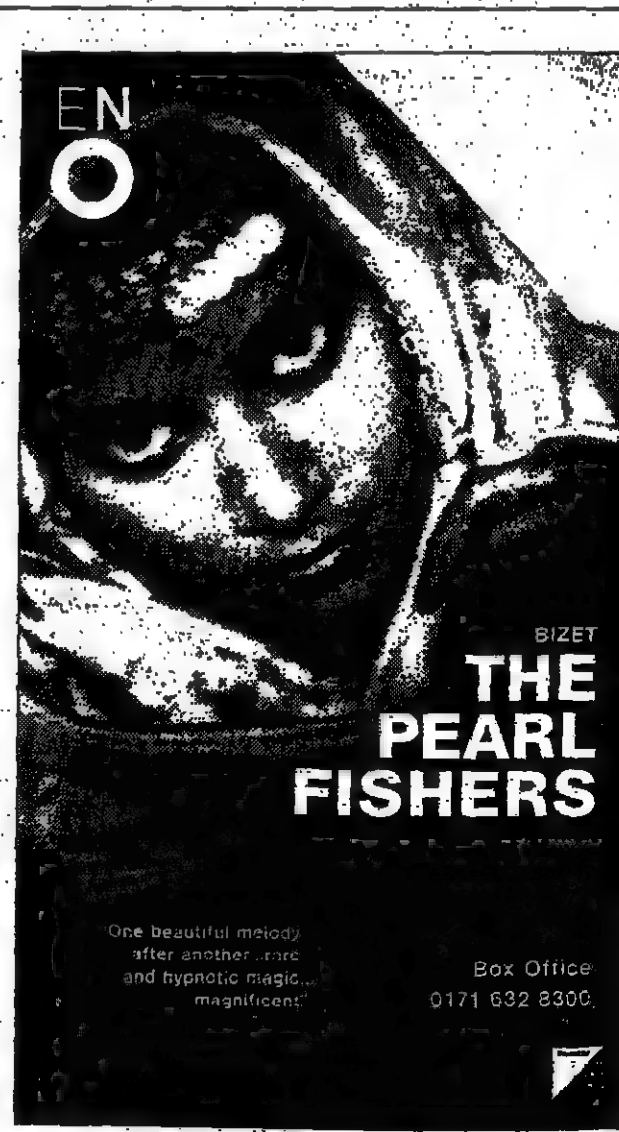
Minghella, in turn, speaks of "an expectation so high that it's not a good place to begin. The terrible thing is, I hope people aren't disappointed if *The English Patient* doesn't win 20 Academy Awards. So many films now open at the end of the year, you just want yours to have a chance."

Regardless of what prizes these films ultimately do or don't win, none of their creators is likely to cross the Atlantic for good. Despite having a home in Greenwich Village in Manhattan, Hytner is retaining his north London base — "I can't wait to work here again, and I'm always going to do theatre here" — and Minghella's Hampstead house is not far away.

Perhaps the last word on Hollywood should go to an ever-feisty Mike Leigh. "If you're asking, would I really work for a Hollywood studio, or would I rather stick needles in my eyeballs, I would say pass me the needles."



Oscar contender *The Crucible*, directed by Nicholas Hytner



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Based on a story and characters of Damon Runyon
Music and lyrics by Frank Loesser
Book by Jo Swerling
Tonight, Tomorrow, Thurs 9 & Fri 10 Jan at 7.30pm, Wed 8 & Sat 11 Jan at 2.00pm & 7.15pm and continuing

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Variations on Shakespeare's Hamlet
a new solo work by Robert Lepage
8 Performances Only
Tonight, Tomorrow, Thurs 9 & Fri 10 Jan at 7.30pm, Wed 8 & Sat 11 Jan at 2.15pm & 7.30pm

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The Cripple of Inishmaan
a new play by Martin McDonagh
Tonight at 7.00pm
Pre-Night tomorrow at 6.00pm & continuing
Light Shining in Buckinghamshire
by Caryl Churchill
Preview Thurs 11 Jan at 7.00pm
Press Night Fri 10 Jan at 7.00pm, Sat 11 Jan at 2.00pm & 7.00pm & continuing

Platform Performances
Runyon Readings
Lecture & music
Thurs 10 Jan at 7.00pm
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Writer
Fri 10 Jan at 7.00pm
Robert Lepage
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FILM

Barbara Streisand takes acting, singing and directing credits on her new film, *The Mirror Has Two Faces*.
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



POP

Norma Waterson, the woman who saw off the Gallagher brothers, plays *Shepherds Bush*.
GIG: Saturday
REVIEW: Next week



DANCE

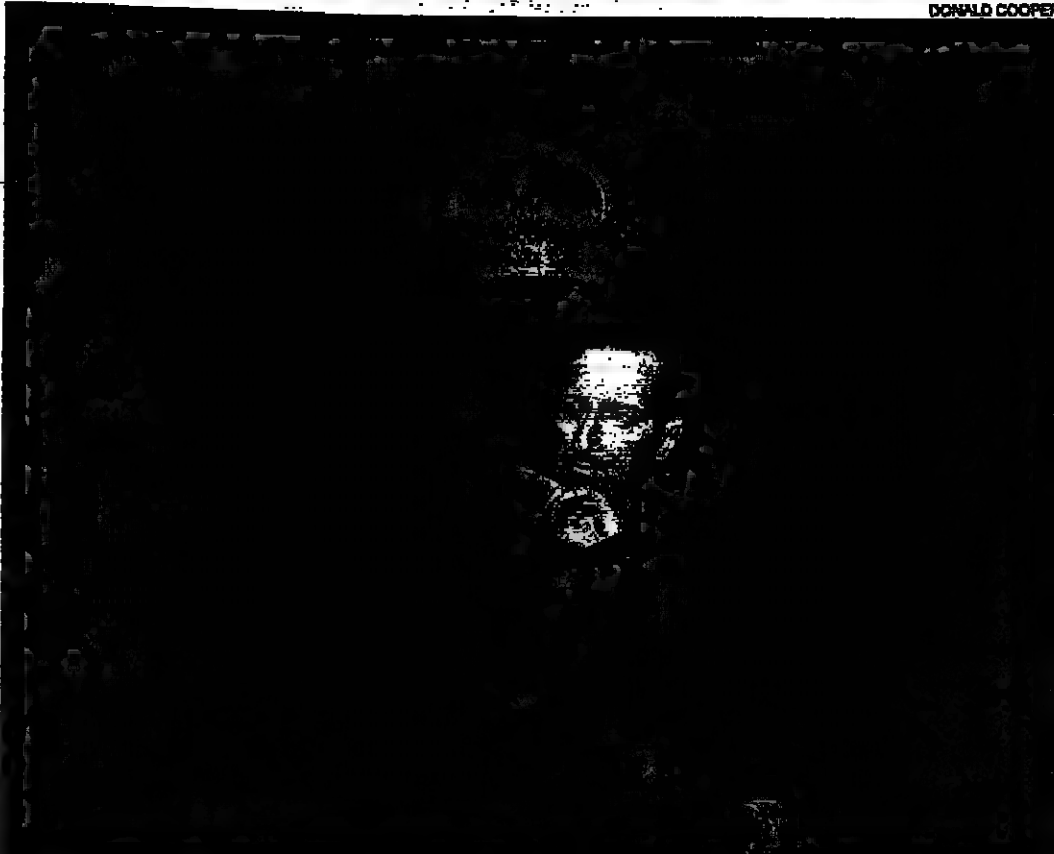
Anthony Dowell's controversial staging of *The Sleeping Beauty* is revived at Covent Garden.
OPENS: Saturday
REVIEW: Next week



BOOKS

Ian Sinclair explores the secret history of London in his new book, *Lights Out for the Territory*.
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2



"Lepage's Hamlet is always diverting, often gripping and comes with an abundance of technology"

Missing the point

Shakespeare's Bottom was cast as Pyramus, but wanted to play Thisbe, the Lion and the Prologue as well. Luckily, he had a firm producer in Peter Quince, who put a stop to his escalating megalomania. Robert Lepage, however, continues to be Hamlet. Claudius, Gertrude, Polonius, Ophelia, Horatio, the Ghost, Laertes, Orla and even a silently toiling gravedigger. In the touring production that is now visiting the National, and there is nobody to check him, for he is adept and director of *Elsinore* as well as its solo performer.

Lepage's *Hamlet* is always diverting, often gripping and comes with an abundance of technology not available in Shakespeare's London. Let alone Bottom's Athens. But this is a problem as well as a strength. In the production, the Canadian director uses the most important paradox in Hamlet's character: a mistrust of the very passion that will enable him to do what he has to do. But I should emerge from the aperture box to see this, or indeed any other distinct interpretation of the original Prince or the original play, amid the computerised contraptions of Carl Filion's set-films.

On Saturday the mechanics displayed no hint of the gremlins that nobbled the production at the last Edinburgh Festival. Towering screens swing together and, with photos of heavy grey bricks played upon them, become the massive walls of Elsinore. Behind these a

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on Elsinore at the Lyttelton

central panel rises and falls, tilts and even seems to squawk. Often a rectangular slot appears at its centre, allowing Lepage to play some of the same visual tricks he did in his version of *Coriolanus* three years ago.

At one point you peer through a slot, surrounded by projections of antique books to see the head of Lepage's Polonius babbling away at the top of Hamlet as he stands in the doorway, reading "words, words, words". At another, the slowly descending panel engulfs Lepage's Hamlet — and who should emerge from the aperture box but the top half of Lepage's Ophelia in Elsinorean drag. As yet another, the panel sprouts a table that rapidly spins to give the impression that Lepage's Claudius is talking to Lepage's insolently idling Hamlet. You certainly get the chance to look at Elsinore from odd, interesting angles. Whether you get a similarly revealing purchase on Hamlet is another matter.

Though Lepage takes a familiarity with Shakespeare for granted,

his 100-minute condensation is skilfully done. But the quality of his acting is variable. Sometimes his diction is lucid, sometimes a bit scrambled. He also has a maddening mannerism, which is to signal strong emotion by shouting the last words of sentences. Thus: "Now could I drink HOT BLOOD!" "You have my father much OFFENDED!" "Thou find'st that to be too busy is some DANGER!" I am not sure he is yet ready to play the Prince in a *Hamlet* in which other actors appear.

Still, the virtuosic effects provide their own compensation. The murder of Polonius, in which a seething tapestry lets you watch the swelling silhouette of Hamlet from the old man's point of view, is a particular success. Lepage's Claudius, perched in dark glasses on a floating throne and speaking with an electronic echo built into his voice, is a menacing presence. The final scene comes perilously close to burlesque, what with kings and queens and dukes popping out from behind a square pillar successively plastered with projections of their dead faces; but Lepage keeps the titers at bay.

Was it all worth the effort? Bardophiles may well wonder, but loyal Lepageophiles can reasonably ask some counter-questions. Who else is bringing such imaginative chutzpah to his work? Who else would so boldly use the tools of the future in order to pay homage to the past? Nobody I know.

OPERA: Barstow shines as Britten's queen. Plus, Mozart without bite

Josephine the great

IF PHYLLIDA Lloyd's production of *Gloriana* has been one of the brightest jewels in Opera North's crown in recent years, then the current revival confirms Josephine Barstow's assumption of the central role as one of the greatest in the world's near half-century history. When the huge rear doors first swing open to reveal the Queen's imperious figure borne aloft, it is difficult to quell the thought that this role belongs to Barstow. In her bearing, her physiognomy, and later both her singing and speaking voices, she incontrovertibly is Gloriana.

Barstow returns to the role three years on with undimmed splendour. Whether flaunting her more womanly emotions in response to Essex's lute song, or attracting sympathy in the latter stages as the hunched, balding figure in her private chamber, she rivets the attention. This is a tour de force of theatricality — aided by Lloyd's immensely perceptive and resourceful staging — as much as of vocalisation, although Barstow is never less than magnificent in that department too. Commanding and precise, her tone and diction are as regal as her demeanour; even when stripped of her regal, you know this is no ordinary woman whose chamber has been burst into.

Thomas Randle plays Essex unconventionally: not as a typical



"Undimmed splendour": Josephine Barstow rules as Gloriana

courtier but as an irresponsible headstrong. Interpretation makes sense, giving dramatic credence to Essex's fall from favour, and Randle complements his ardent singing — his "Queen of my Life" salutation is a radiant effusion — with a suitably dynamic, indeed gymnastic approach to the physical aspect of the role.

New to the production are Ruth Peel's sympathetic Frances, Countess of Essex, and Susannah Glanville's equally admirable Penelope, Lady Rich. Their contrasting charms for clemency on behalf of the condemned Essex — the sorrowing mother's concern for her children on the one hand, the defiant courtier on the other — are particularly well characterised. Michael John Pearson is the strong new Blind Ballad Singer and Richard Whitehouse, Essex's follower, Henry Cuffe. Karl Daymond returns as Lord Mountjoy and Clive Bayley and Eric Roberts repeat their Raleigh and Cecil.

James Holmes, Opera North's head of music, conducts with vigour and a good sense of theatre. As the people acclaim their monarch with outstretched arms in the first act, the chorus, orchestra and on-stage trumpeters together create an impressive sound. When the Queen finally signs Essex's death warrant, stage and pit again work together to catch the drama of the moment.

Not everything is on this exalt-

A tale without a powerful hero

IT IS brave of Travelling Opera to feature *Don Giovanni* as one of the three works in its winter-spring season. Not only is Mozart's *dramma giocoso* one of the most performed operas in the repertoire, making comparisons with the first act the chorus, orchestra and on-stage trumpeters together create an impressive sound. When the Queen finally signs Essex's death warrant, stage and pit again work together to catch the drama of the moment.

Not everything is on this exalt-

phen Crook. All move well in Claire Young's simple, all-black set. Giles Block's production is, if nothing else, fluent.

The orchestral playing supplies special, unexpected pleasure. Richard Balcombe's reduction of the score, one player to a part, brings a chamber-like quality to the music with only the big dramatic contrasts lacking. The band, all equals here, give a crisp and stylish performance under the light baton of David Gibson, whose considerable support of the singers ensures easy-flowing ensembles throughout.

JOHN ALLISON

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Matthew Parris



■ I've made my new year's resolution: I'm going to start planning for isthmus day

My map of Kerguelen has arrived, and I am more delighted than I can say. Measuring 615 by 515 and composed of three separate charts integrated into one, it has been assembled by my brother Roger. The charts, ordered from a geographical institute in Paris, took months to come. Roger has mounted them with care and precision on a wooden backing, faced with 60mm glass and framed in oak — so the thing weighs more than a man. On the wall of my flat in London the weight is taken by a horizontal baton screwed into the brick. This map, every detail, transfixes me. I go up close to study an isthmus, a marsh or a snowfield — then stand back and stare in blank wonder at the whole island. I am under its spell.

I always have been. Did you ever, as a child, pore over those great world atlases, in Mercator's projection, with Baffin Island very big and all the British bits in red? I spent a boyhood doing so. What fascinated me were places that looked remote.

Chief among these was an archipelago of islands which (my Britannica said) were the land most remote from any continent in the world. The archipelago lies in the south Indian Ocean, more than 2,000 miles east-south-east of the Cape of Good Hope, and even further west-south-west of Western Australia. More than 1,000 miles north of Antarctica, Kerguelen is more than 4,000 miles south of India. Situated at 49 deg South (England is about the same latitude in the north) the archipelago belongs to France. It is the main island that is called Kerguelen, or Desolation Island. What intrigued me as a child was how big Kerguelen is. Some 90 miles from tip to tip, a 2,800 square mile spidery triangle of fords and peninsulas. It seemed mysterious that a substantial island at an apparently temperate latitude was never mentioned in geography lessons. No teacher could tell me about it. Few even recognised the name. So the place took on a tremendous allure: a secret island that I could almost discover. At its other name, "Desolation", my eyes widened. The idea grew — fanciful of course — that someone was trying to hide the existence of this place. I felt drawn there.

Childish researches established that Kerguelen was first sighted in 1772 by Joseph de Kerguelen Tremarec, a Breton noble. Captain Cook visited in the *Challenger* four years later and explored. Later came sealing and whaling stations, now abandoned, along with ships' cats, which have reputedly gone feral and tip-toe through the snow, stalking birds. A group of French scientists apparently inhabit the main settlement, Port au France. But I cannot establish that any human being has ever been born on Kerguelen. The climate is not, it turns out, temperate. The winters are bitter, the summers cool. The islands are the windiest place in the world. The gale almost never abates, buffeting Kerguelen in perpetual violent squalls. Of trees, only fossils remain; the native Kerguelen cabbage has been ravaged by rabbits (introduced); the islands are so windy that insects have evolved to pollinate by wind.

Mountains rise to some 6,000 ft. And (speculates an encyclopaedia) there may be hot springs and volcanoes. The archipelago is out by fantastic flocks. "The scenery is generally magnificent... glaciers descend east and west to the sea. The whole island abounds in freshwater lakes and pools. Hidden deep mudholes are common."

I doubt whether there is any way of reaching Kerguelen by air. It seems one or two ships anchor there, but never stay. So one might have to go for six months or more.

I long to. But first I must find out more. Joseph Kerguelen himself described the island, and Captain Cook has an account, which I have yet to find. In his narrative of the *Challenger* voyage, another account was written in 1893. In French, and a friend in France has sent me a modern French journal which I am struggling to read. Somewhat introspective, with imaginative interludes much in the French manner, it nevertheless seems likely to provide useful information.

Everyone should make a new year's resolution. Mine is to start making serious plans to reach Kerguelen. One way would be to get together a properly funded expedition, which would have to be photographic. I cannot see anyone being so interested in printing or screening an account of the islands, however, as to stump up the money. An alternative would be to hang around in Mauritius for a year or so until someone else was setting sail there. Time-consuming.

I am also worried about frostbite. Even in Derbyshire I suffer dreadfully from frozen fingers, feet and ears; what will it be like in a 200mph west wind? Such speculations fill my mind.

A letter last week on the page opposite was good enough to remind the Editor that columnists such as me pay for holidays by writing about them. Correspondent, I spit in your eye. Sneak. Modern-day Ferdinands and Isabellas, do get in touch. I await your call. Standing where I shall so often stand again this year, staring at my wonderful map of Kerguelen.

The Labour leader has been frank with his party, but is still evasive with the electorate

Blair is remarkable, but not invincible

William Rees-Mogg

Tony Blair will himself be one of the main issues of the general election, and rightly so. The Conservatives will be attacked for negative campaigning, and no doubt some of their criticisms will be personal and unfair. But the Blair issue is unavoidable. The election will decide whether "new Labour" is to be the next government of the country: new Labour is Tony Blair's creation. One can no more criticise new Labour without criticising Tony Blair than one can criticise Virgin Airways without criticising Richard Branson.

There have been eight Labour leaders since the war, all of whom served for a time as Leader of the Opposition. With the exception of Harold Wilson, their record in opposition was depressing. Wilson is the only Labour leader since 1950 to have won a general election. He won two elections as Leader of the Opposition, in 1964 and 1974. Yet he held the firm belief that the old Labour orthodoxies, however absurd, should be evaded rather than challenged. He left a Labour Party even more divided than he found it.

No Leader of the Opposition can be judged in history until he has fought an election, and Tony Blair has not yet won his. Nevertheless, he has done something that none of his seven predecessors achieved, and only Hugh Gaitskell even attempted. He has changed Labour from being a democratic socialist party to being a social democratic party. He has done this without splitting his party, though old Labour deeply resents the change, and he has established a personal control that none of his predecessors enjoyed. If he wins the election, even narrowly, that will confirm the judgment that Tony Blair is the strongest leader the Labour Party has had in opposition since the war.

The question in people's minds is

whether he would be anything like as good a Prime Minister as he has been a Leader of the Opposition. There is a worrying contrast between the dominance he has shown to his party and the defence he has shown to the electorate. All of his risks have been party risks; none of his risks have been electoral. He has not hesitated to tell his party unpalatable truths; he has not been equally frank with the voters. To his party he has spoken as a man who knows what is right and is determined to push it through; to the country he has spoken as a man who reads opinion polls.

This has sometimes been only too obvious. Michael Howard is a right-wing and populist Home Secretary, with too simple a view of the treatment of crime and punishment. He enjoys less professional confidence, either among lawyers or in the penal and probationary services, than any Home Secretary since the war. He does, as a politician, enjoy some public support, because he is seen as tough on crime. He may even sometimes be right.

A proper Opposition would scrutinise such a Home Secretary's measures very rigorously. The present Police Bill is in line with Michael Howard's headline policies; it includes giving legal rights to the police to invade and spy on the privacy of the home, on the more say of a chief constable. Nothing could be more unwelcome from the point of

view of civil liberties, yet the Labour Party has accepted these liberal proposals, presumably for fear of being outflanked by Mr Howard's toughness on crime.

The issues on which the election ought to be fought are the economy, particularly government expenditure and taxation, and Europe, particularly the single currency. The Labour Party policy is not clear on either. The Conservative Party is clearer on the economy, but is still ambiguous on Europe. When

panies, relying on let-out clauses the customer has not read.

Neither party has yet said whether it will recommend joining the European single currency in the next Parliament if elected, though both have promised a referendum if they decide to do so. This makes democracy a farce. The Government's excuse is that its negotiating position would be destroyed if it stated now that it did not intend to join during the next Parliament. That is quite untrue. The 14 other European countries all assume that Britain under a Conservative government would not join in the first round; that is fully discounted in the negotiations already. Labour's excuse is even feebler. It says that when the time comes, it will decide on the balance of economic advantage. The decision is now so close that the facts and arguments are already clear. The truth is that neither party is prepared to tell the electorate what its intentions are.

So Tony Blair's election position does have two large holes in it. The Labour Party is drawn up in battle array, rather like a nervous Austrian army facing Napoleon. There are gaps in the centre of the line, which Napoleon's passed artillery would have blasted and the French cavalry would have poured through. Yet so far the Conservatives have not shown the Napoleonic spirit. There is a gaping hole in the

Tory line as well, and a confused scurrying of staff officers in the fog. The Cabinet cannot make up its mind about Europe, and therefore cannot exploit Labour's weakness on the European issue.

If the Conservatives do not press home their attack, Labour is going to win. Tony Blair's success in building a coalition of progressive opinion is almost breathtaking. He has even turned the constitutional issues which overrode the intellectuals of Primrose Hill into an agency for mass recruitment. The Liberal Democrats have been lured into constitutional talks which make Tony Blair appear a better Liberal Democrat than Paddy Ashdown. He will not need a Lib-Lab pact if he manages to steal enough Liberal votes in the general election itself. He has not been foolish enough to concede proportional representation, which would have tied him to the Liberal Democrats forever.

Tony Blair's strategy is a ruthless one. He has imposed tough discipline on his own party; if he wins the election, as prime minister he will have patronage with which to reinforce it. He has killed socialism and replaced it with social democracy. He has covered his most vulnerable areas with a screen of calculated ambiguity. He has lured many Liberal Democrats and centrist Conservatives into his camp. He has fulfilled this strategy almost on his own; no-one else could have done it.

Yet the strategy is vulnerable. In the beginning, Tony Blair's risk was that he would not be able to carry old Labour with him. But old Labour is yesterday's threat. Now the risk is that his two big ambiguities, expenditure and Europe, will be attacked successfully by the Tories. Fortunately for him, the Tories cannot make him say what he would do about the single currency unless they first say what they would do themselves.

Whose party will it be?

Chris Patten's next move will say a lot about the Tories, says Peter Riddell

Chris Patten is one of those rare politicians who continues to intrigue the political world even when he is several thousand miles away. When MPs and fellow journalists learnt that I would be spending a few days in Hong Kong before Christmas, en route to a family holiday in Australia, they said: "You must find out what Chris is really intending to do when he comes back."

To both friends and enemies, Mr Patten is the Prince over the Water. His repeated protestations of being unsure whether he wants to return to the Commons are never taken at face value. His friends hope that he can be persuaded to stand at an early by-election in the next Parliament. His enemies fear a plot, involving John Major, to get Mr Patten back so he can obstruct their desire to push the party rightwards.

But like most conspiracy theories, this talk is mainly froth without substance. There was never any chance of Mr Patten resigning the governorship to stand at the general election. Now, he means what he says about waiting and seeing. He has plenty to do in the final six months of British rule, not least persuading the Government to fulfill its moral obligations by extending British citizenship to the few thousand in the non-Chinese ethnic minority. This has been opposed by the Home Office, though it is supported by Labour. After June 30, Mr Patten intends to take a long holiday, write a book about the lessons of Asian economic success, and find a new London home. So don't expect him to be addressing fringe meetings at the Conservative Party conference.



Few politicians have had a successful career in the Commons. Lord Curzon a century ago, and Lord Halifax (as he became) in the 1920s as Viceroy of India, did not return to the Commons, but Roy Jenkins was one of the few to do so after being President of the European Commission in the late 1970s. As David Gilmour describes in his superb biography, Curzon had a wretched time on his return from India, often falling into despair, and describing his life as a failure and a mockery. Even Halifax waited more than a year after leaving India — admittedly at his own choice — before taking a junior Cabinet post.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead is the only one to have returned to the Commons. And his high point was winning the Hillhead by-election in March 1982. He did not enjoy his

subsequent five years in the Commons, obtaining more satisfaction from his Glasgow constituency. He is the only one of the seven former-MP British EU Commissioners (excluding the current two) to go back to the Commons. All but one of the others went to the Lords, Ivor Richard now being the Labour leader there.

But Lord Jenkins returned to the Commons in the special circumstances of the launch of the SDP. He probably could not have become, and would not have wanted to become, a Labour MP again. His experience also shows the problems. Generations move on, and the Commons changes. The Conservative Party after the next election will be very different from the Conservative

Party Mr Patten knew five years ago.

Moreover, as Mr Patten has said, the Commons is not something to be considered casually, like dropping back into a club. It requires an unequivocal commitment, as well as luck, since constituency parties now are not easily impressed by grand figures. The idea of a seat being reserved for Mr Patten is daft, though a few senior MPs with an eye on the Lords have suggested as much. While the possibility of creating a vacancy in a seat like Chelsea was mooted after his defeat at Bath in 1992, it was quickly rejected by Mr Patten. The rumours before Sir Nicholas Scott's decision that he was keeping the new Kensington and Chelsea seat warm for Mr Patten were nonsense.

The other option, also mooted for Mr Patten in 1992, is a place in the Lords. But few peers have real

influence. The days when a Curzon, Halifax, Home or Carrington could be Foreign Secretary from the Lords are over. Occasionally a peer can have a role as a behind-the-scenes player, as Lord Whitelaw did in the mid 1980s, but attempts to find a new "Whitl" have failed. Mr Patten, who will be 53 on his return, is young for such a role.

If this goes to show how narrow is the career structure of British politics. You have either to be committed to climbing the ladder of promotion, or out. This results in a loss of people of talent and experience. Mr Patten would probably now be a better minister than before he lost his seat. He reckons that he would use his time better and be a better delegator. Moreover, whatever the arguments about his handling of China in 1992-93, Mr Patten has been right to seek to enshrine democratic rights in Hong Kong. The alternative was not a quiet surrender, but the absurdity of Britain opposing protests by democratic activists.

Mr Patten still has much to contribute to public life. He retains an enthusiasm for political controversy. His views have changed over the past five years. He now stresses the need to limit the size of the State. This does not mean draconian cuts to aim at Asian levels of public spending (20 per cent or less of national income), but it does involve shifting the balance between public and private provision.

What is distinctive, and appealing, about Mr Patten is not so much his ministerial record — three middle-level posts before a raised 18 months as Environment Secretary — but his approach to politics. He stands out because of his decency and humanity, because he is not an obsessive. Westminster speculation has missed the point. The question is not whether Mr Patten wants to become Tory leader — which would be highly unlikely, as he accepts — but rather whether he sees the post-election Conservative Party as a congenial place to serve. Much will depend on who is the leader. Mr Patten's decision will say much about the future of the Tories.

Out of range



The Duke out shooting

LESS than a month after the Duke of Edinburgh appalled victims of the Dunblane tragedy by suggesting that members of gun clubs were no more dangerous than cricketers, his award scheme is to consider dropping marksmanship as one of its activities.

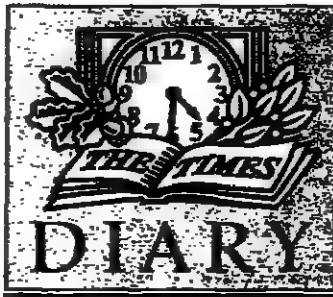
A sitting panel of the Duke of Edinburgh Award will meet in February to discuss whether rifle-range shooting should remain as one of the 300 or so skills that participants can learn as part of the scheme.

"Marksmanship is on the meeting's agenda," said a representative yesterday. "They will be discussing whether it is still relevant, but I am not going to pre-empt the outcome."

Shooting with air pistols, air rifles and proper 22 rifles has been offered since the award was set up 40 years ago to promote enterprise among teenagers of an outdoor, Gordonstoun-inspired, cold-morning-baths variety. The Army Cadet Force was one of the first organisations to become involved, and marksmanship arrived with it. "Very few people do marksmanship with the award

now," said the representative. Prince Philip will not be at the meeting, and he is still wary of any moves to curb shooting. Even so, public reaction forced him into an unprecedented apology before Christmas for his suggestion that the sort of chap who uses a gun for sport isn't very different from the one who swings a golf club, tennis racket or cricket bat.

● The great minds of Cambridge University expect nothing but the best, but even they were surprised at the quality of the local pantomime cast this year. The comedian Barry Cryer, starring as the Dame



in Dick Whittington at the Arts Theatre, is described in the programme as having received an award from the Royal Society, the world's senior scientific body. Perhaps they meant the Royal Television Society.

Clean game

FOOTBALL FOLK are emotional types, as Graham Taylor, the former England manager, eloquently demonstrated in a documentary during which he used the F-word 40 times, a new record for television. Malcolm Allison, who once managed Middlesbrough, has now been sacked by a radio station from his job as a football commentator because of his forceful language. Century Radio, based in the North East, had warned him, and held

up the red card after he advised a player while commenting on a Coventry v Middlesbrough match after Christmas to "get the f— ball".

The station's general manager, John Myers, is upset: "There is no way back for him now," he said. "It's very sad because he is such a nice bloke. We sacked him a year ago for using the f-word, but due to public demand, we asked him to come back — with the proviso that he would watch his language."

Chapeau chap

AS Jacques Chirac struggles with a host of economic and social woes,



Hats off, a year on

France is indulging in a bout of dewy-eyed nostalgia for the man he replaced. "Why all this Mitterrand idolatry?" asks the conservative newspaper *Le Figaro* as the first anniversary of his death on January 8 approaches. "Certainly not because of his record, which comprises a lowering of France in all regards."

The corruption scandals of his tenure, the unemployment statistics and the recession are ignored in the present mellow of Mitterrand mania: pride of place in the museum of headwear near Lyons has just been given over to a broad-brim hat, customised with the initials F.M.

True story

BACK in the autumn, tragedy struck at the Royal Opera House. Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu, the Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers of the operatic stage, quite unexpectedly refused to perform *Rodolfo* and *Mimi* in *La Bohème*. They had been booked long in advance, tickets had been sold for up to £130 each, and the Opera House was left high and dry, offering up limp excuses about exhaustion on their behalf.

In next month's *Classic FM* magazine, Alagna finally explains why



Duty before operatic romance

he and his wife pulled out. Angela's sister was killed in a crash, leaving behind her six-year-old daughter, Yvana, whom the couple have since adopted.

"At the time we cancelled *La Bohème* in London and everybody said: 'It is a scandal, I have my ticket.' But we stuck by our sister, that is all. The matter is closed."

P.H.S



HIDDEN AGENDA

Labour should treat the constitution with caution

It may be the historic task of the Liberals, John Maynard Keynes once argued, to give ideas to the Labour Party and then to the Conservatives. Some time has passed since the second role was discharged. The revelation that a Labour-Liberal committee has drafted an agreed approach to constitutional reform suggests the first function is alive and well.

If reports are accurate, consensus has already been reached on the introduction of a Bill of Rights and Freedom of Information Act as well as reform of the House of Lords. A Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly, significant regional government, are still being discussed, as is the switch of the electoral system towards a type more conducive to the centre party. Tony Blair is unlikely to embrace proportional representation before the general election. However, he will wait until he sees the size of his majority before ruling it out.

Many, particularly on the left of the Labour Party, have expressed anger that so few among their ranks were aware of this continuing co-operation, and fury that leading Liberal Democrats appear to wield more influence than several members of the Shadow Cabinet. This concern should really be directed at the substance of these discussions, not the symbolism. For the future fate of a Blair government may rest upon their outcome.

If Labour held only the shortest of measures it presently seems minded to offer the Liberal Democrats, then it would probably come to little harm. A Bill of Rights, Freedom of Information Act and parliamentary reform would represent a substantial but manageable package, broadly compatible with the principles of the present constitution. Voter antagonism would be improbable. The Conservatives might be outmanoeuvred; Whitehall secrecy and hereditary peerage do not look promi-

ing terrain to defend. The legislative cost would be limited. Mr Blair could claim to have made some long overdue modernisation to the institutions of British government while preserving the time to do much more besides.

That would not be the case if Labour swallowed whole the plans pressed upon it by such groups as Charter 88 and their Liberal allies. This might seem attractive to some new Labour supporters as a programme that combined genuine radicalism with minimal expenditure. Yet even if Mr Blair abandoned the longstanding convention that constitutional measures should be debated, line-by-line, on the floor of the Commons, not in committee, little parliamentary space would be available for anything else. The proposals themselves would be extremely controversial and prompt internal division. They would also represent an opportunity for the Conservative opposition to reunite. Yet, outside Scotland — and even here — politics is about more than devotion. There is little evidence that constitutional reform stands among the reasons why the electorate might choose a Labour government.

In short, Paddy Ashdown and his followers would win by far the better part of such a bargain. One does not need to be a member of the Tribune Group to note an irony in the first Labour government for 18 years implementing policies that the Liberal Party has failed in the last 80 years to persuade the public to accept. Advocates of radical action resort to fundamental constitutional change is the "necessary precondition" before more ambitious innovations can be undertaken in a second administration. No Labour government has yet served a full term and been re-elected for another five years. If Mr Blair allows the next Parliament to be shaped by the Liberal Democrat agenda, that record will not change.

NEWT ON THE RACK

The Speaker should still retain the confidence of Republicans

These have been difficult weeks for Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the US House of Representatives. Although personally unpopular with the American electorate, his strategy and leadership have proved strong enough to see the re-election of his Republican opponents in November. That victory, the first of its kind in almost seven decades, seemed enough to silence criticism.

That was before the House Ethics Committee decided that Gopac, the political organisation he once headed, had violated the law in soliciting tax-deductible contributions to fund a college course of lectures that Mr Gingrich had given. As so often, the original misdemeanour was compounded by subsequent attempts to minimise its importance. The Speaker has conceded that he provided "inaccurate, incomplete, and unreliable information" to his colleagues.

Of itself this should not cause Mr Gingrich's downfall. The ultimate verdict from the committee is unlikely to be stronger than a reprimand. Unless further revelations emerge, then the Speaker will be re-elected when Congress reassembles in Washington tomorrow. Despite that, many Republicans are openly nervous. They would be grateful if their standard-bearer chose voluntary retirement.

The Republican case against their leader is threefold. Many believe that his recent difficulties will make it impossible for him to recapture public support and the party cannot be saddled with an electoral liability. In addition, more cynically, House Republicans need him rather less than two years ago. Then they unexpectedly won power after 40 years in the wilderness. Their tenure could have proved an embarrassing fiasco were it not for the direction he offered.

Furthermore, the Gingrich case is proving a damaging distraction. The emerging scandal about how the Democratic National Committee sought vast donations from Asian businessmen, accepted contributions that were palpably illegal, then offered access to the White House and, allegedly, the opportunity to influence American trade policy in return, invites genuine comparison with Watergate. Yet Republicans are, some suggest, inhibited in exploiting it while the Speaker's own probity, on affairs of an admittedly trivial scale, can be questioned.

This is not an inconsequential argument. If Mr Gingrich encounters any further ethical difficulties even his most ardent supporters might need to reassess their position. Before that, though, House Republicans need to consider the consequences of losing him. In large part this affair has acquired its prominence through Democratic pressure, partly as revenge for the fall of Speaker Jim Wright in 1989, but largely out of hostility and fear of the agenda embodied by Mr Gingrich. That campaign would probably intensify, not disappear, if the present Speaker were sacrificed.

Nor is it difficult to detect why House Democrats want to be rid of their nemesis. Mr Gingrich is not irreplaceable but any successor is unlikely to bring the same combination of intellectual vision, political planning and the ability to broker compromise between Republican factions. The party would be less effective as a result of his departure. The Speaker would be well advised to proceed with great caution in the months ahead. But he requires continued Republican support as much for what he can deliver in the future as for his undoubted successes in the recent past.

FLEETING FAME AT THE BAR

Nelson Mandela is no longer an icon for today's students

When Nelson Mandela was a prisoner on Robben Island, a persecuted symbol of apartheid's evil, his name and fame were adopted by student unions across the country. Bars, buildings and halls of residence were named after the African National Congress leader; his image was an icon for crusaders in the anti-apartheid struggle, the more potent for being locked away from public view. Yet from the moment of his liberation, the mystery began to fade. Mr Mandela became a familiar face on television, no longer a suffering martyr, but a moral politician beset by the daily compromises of politics.

A new, more worldly generation of students has turned its attention to heroes nearer home: to the icons of screen and stage, to sporting personalities and to the showbiz plutocrats able to bestow not only their name on a bar but perhaps also some new stools and a karaoke machine. Nelson Mandela was just another elderly African leader. Freddie Mercury, on the other hand, was dead, misunderstood and a victim of Aids who could be adopted for today's fashionable causes. The Mandela bar quietly became the Freddie Mercury bar. Of the 30 or more Mandela bars once found in British universities, others opted for Oasis, Des Lynam, the BBC presenter, or even Bruce Forsyth — though student players in that generation game have since reverted to a more revered saint in the Martin Luther King bar.

Embarrassed student leaders insist that today's young drinkers have not turned their backs on the anti-imperialist struggle — whatever its current manifestation. But there is a feeling that these causes are yesterday's, the pretexts for the great student sit-ins of the late Sixties. And anyway, who wants now to be associated with a President preoccupied more with investment than divestment, fighting crime than fighting the capitalist conspiracy?

Rarely do the reputations of revolutionaries ripen in respectability. In politics, as in the arts, a premature or violent end guarantees a reputation untouched by failure or decline. Wilfred Owen, James Dean and Marilyn Monroe share with Kennedy, Che Guevara and Eva Perón the nostalgia for what might later have been — though would probably have only declined.

Mr Mandela will not grieve that he has been usurped by the transient idols of Britpop. He won a more warming accolade last summer, with the excited smiles of the children in Brixton, and the evident emotion of Betty Boothroyd as she walked hand in hand with him down the steps. At Oxford, at least, he has had a statesman's revenge: not all New College found the renaming of the Mandela bar the Joanna Lumley Room absolutely fabulous, and restored the old man's name above the door. And South Africa's leader has, after all, won his struggle: which is more than can be said for either of the feuding brothers of Oasis.

Bringing abortion into party politics

From Dr Geoffrey M. Seeff

Sir, I am not one of those who believe that the Church, in this case the Roman Catholic Church, should desist from comment on or direct involvement in politics. Access to abortion has wide-ranging economic, social and moral implications and Cardinal Hume is perfectly within his rights to advise the followers of his faith not to vote for parliamentary candidates who support the principles enshrined in the present laws on the matter (reports, December 28 and January 1). Similarly, the Pro-Life Alliance is entitled to put up candidates to fight the general election on this platform.

However, having entered the political fray, the Cardinal cannot be allowed to shy away from telling us where he stands on the secular aspects of the nation's governance. I assume that he is not so naive as to suggest to Catholic voters that the "evil" of abortion overrides every other aspect of their lives, so he should now make clear the relative importance of the issue.

How would abortion rank in comparison with some of the other "moral" questions of our day, such as broadcasting and the media, crime and punishment, medical research and vivisection and the National Lottery? And how would the Cardinal advise people to vote if the only anti-abortion candidate in their constituency was against further gun controls and in favour of hanging?

As for the Pro-Life Alliance, I look forward to reading its party manifesto. With no robust political philosophy underpinning the grouping, if policies are presented on issues other than abortion, it will be of considerable interest to know the method by which they have been developed and how committed to them are its candidates — although in this particular regard they may be no worse than either of the Labour or Conservative parties.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY M. SEEFF
(Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate, Chingford and Woodford Green), 32 Churchfields, South Woodford, E18, January 2.

Investigations of MPs

From the Editor of The Guardian

Sir, I am mystified by Sir Gordon Downey's letter (January 3) which may have given the impression that *The Guardian* has been mainly responsible for a delay in him examining the allegations against Neil Hamilton and other MPs. This is wrong.

The case against Mr Hamilton and his colleagues was sent to Sir Gordon on October 8. Sir Gordon subsequently argued that we would have to surrender our right to publish any supporting material we sent him since it would attract parliamentary privilege. I cannot believe that any newspaper would agree to surrender its copyright on its own material to a parliamentary committee. There was thus a delay while this point was settled.

Sir Gordon received the main bundle of documents at the end of November and has been in consultation with our lawyers since. Until Sir Gordon rang me on Thursday afternoon I had had no indication from him that he was lacking any further evidence.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN RUSBRIDGE
Editor, *The Guardian*, 119 Farringdon Road, EC1, January 3.

Honours due

From Mr Charles J. Swallow

Sir, The Government claims to be concerned about education. A cursory look at the New Year's Honours list (reports and leading article, December 31) suggests that their priorities are otherwise.

The award of an MBE to the elderly (and no doubt thoroughly deserving) "lollipop" man may help to achieve the Prime Minister's stated intention to create a classless society. Yet one looks in vain, year after year, for the singling out for honours of virtually any of the heads or teachers throughout the land, many of whom have given a lifetime of dedicated service to the young.

Teachers, like children, need encouragement. An award costs the Government nothing.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES SWALLOW
(Retired headmaster), Manor Barn House, Wendlebury, Bicester, Oxfordshire, January 3.

Royal Parks cuts

From Mr G. F. C. Plowden

Sir, Heaven forbid that the Royal Parks should get more money (letter, December 29) if they are going to spend it on such fancy vulgarities as the coloured lights let into the ground in St James's Park, or the flowering shrubs planted last year to spoil the beauty of the vistas among the trees in Kensington Gardens. Such attempts at prettification do more damage than neglect or decay.

Yours faithfully,
G. F. C. PLOWDEN,
As from: 22 Prince Edward Mansions, W2, December 28.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'War of words' over Elgin Marbles

From Professor Robert Browning, Chairman, British Committee for the Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles

Sir, Some of the points made in your leading article of December 21, "No Elgin, no marbles", call for clarification (letters, December 28).

First, I do not understand what is meant by saying that by being brought to London, the marbles have "become themselves". In the 15th century they aroused the ecstatic admiration of Cyriac of Ancona, the founding father of classical archaeology.

In 1674 the Marquis de Nointel, Louis XIV's Ambassador to Turkey, had his artist prepare minutely detailed drawings of all the sculptures. A century later, another French Ambassador, the Comte de Choiseul-Couffier, suggested to the Polish Diet that a replica of the Parthenon, sculptures and all, be built in Warsaw to celebrate the new Constitution of Poland. Lord Elgin (1766-1841) was not the first to recognise their perfection.

Second, is it not mean-spirited as well as inaccurate to describe the planned Acropolis Museum as "a speculative gamble" and potentially as "architectural blackmail"? The need for a new and larger Acropolis Museum was recognised 20 years ago, at the same time as the Committee for the Preservation of the Acropolis Monuments was set up by the then Greek Minister of Culture, Professor Constantine Triantafyllidis. The contract for the new museum has now been signed, and preparatory work has already begun.

Thirdly, the war of words over the location of the marbles has hardly been static during the last 15 years. Let us recall, *inter alia*, the publication in 1987 of Christopher Hitchens's *The Elgin Marbles: Should They Be Returned?*; the 1988 debate in the Oxford Union, which voted overwhelmingly that the marbles should be sent back to Greece; the telephone poll in April last year, following a Channel 4 film on the subject, in which out of 100,000 callers 92,500 supported the return; and last but not least a *Times* leader

on April 6, 1992, which ended with these words: "The marbles should be returned and the cobwebs of museum curatorship swept aside".

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT BROWNING, Chairman, The British Committee for the Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles, 5 St Paul's Place, NI, January 2.

From Mrs S. R. Swan

Sir, I am sad and angry at the feeble letters supporting the return of the Elgin Marbles to Greece.

Why on earth should we send them back? These lovely and precious objects were legitimately acquired, meticulously cared for and are splendidly housed in the British Museum for millions of people to enjoy.

Your leading article of December 21 was quite right. As a nation we should be proud of our marvellous museums and dismise all suggestions of returning objects to their countries of origin. What a game of musical chairs would ensue if this were applied universally.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN SWAN,
251 Kennington Road, SE11, January 1.

From Mr Alec Tilley

Sir, There has been a good deal of support in your columns for the return of the Elgin Marbles, but it seems that one of the main stumbling blocks is the fear of setting a precedent. If the Elgin Marbles go home to Greece, what museum piece is safe?

Could they not be returned as a gesture to mark the new millennium? That would merely create a precedent for repatriating one national treasure every 1,000 years — a prospect that ought not to upset museum curators.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC TILLEY,
Fieldfare,
East Street, Hambledon,
Waterlooville, Hampshire,
January 3.

Tracing Greenwich Meridian line

From Miss Caroline Stott

Sir, You report ("Lost time", Diary, December 31) that Greenwich has lost the Meridian line. This is not so.

It cuts England in two from the East Coast just north of the Humber to Peasehaven on the South Coast, east of Brighton, and is recognised and marked at numerous points along its track. Brass plaques, trees, a rose garden, an obelisk and painted lines mark its route.

As occupants of Louth, Boston, Waltham Abbey, East Grinstead and Lewes go about their daily business they regularly trip between the eastern and western hemispheres, not to mention those in the windmill, pub and golf club, and the schools, railway stations and farms that are bisected by the line.

Many of the marks, including some in the buildings and on the roads and pathways of Greenwich, were installed in 1884 when the Greenwich Meridian celebrated 100 years of international acceptance. I had the pleasure of motoring along the line that year, either walked or cycled parts of it, the Red Arrows parachuted onto it and the Brownies polished it.

The Greenwich Meridian is far from lost. After all, it is impossible to lose something that is an imaginary line in the sky.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE STOTT (co-author, *The Greenwich Meridian*, Ordnance Survey, 1984; Department of Navigational Sciences, Old Royal Observatory, Greenwich, 1977-89), 28 Muskoka Avenue, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, January 2.

Visiting Australia

From The High Commissioner of Australia

Sir, Bernard Levin seems to have got hold of the wrong form for his Australian visa ("No room down under", December 13).

The form he needs "for tourism or other recreational activities" is a simple two-page — one page of helpful guidance, and the other the page he needs to complete which actually asks only a few of the questions he mentions in his article.

There are more detailed application forms for such categories as tem-

porary business visas and intending migrants. There is another longer form which is issued by our staff when they have doubts about the applicant's intentions to leave Australia at the end of the time allowed for their trip, but that is hardly ever needed for Britons.

The 300,000 UK tourists who visit us each year and use the two-page form get not only a warm welcome but minimal bureaucracy.

Yours faithfully,
NEAL BLEWETT,
Australian High Commission, Australia House, Strand, WC2, January 1.

Fathers who smoke

From Ms Anne Kenny

Sir, On reading your report (December 17) that children born to men who smoked prior to their child's conception are more likely to succumb to childhood cancers, I mused how rare were such attributions made to the male species.

However, unlike a woman, who would have resignedly added a further weight to her ever increasing burden of guilt and culpability, Lord Kilbracken (letter, December 30, *et seq*) challenges the assertion and reduces it to a statistical irrelevance.

Yours faithfully,
A. KENNY,
1 Winhill Road,
New Mills, High Peak, Derbyshire, January 3.

Up, up and away

From Mr Gareth Boote

Sir, Dr Kenneth Swinburne (letter, January 3) queries a three-year guarantee offered in an advert for a wristwatch, but makes no complaint that pre-Christmas adverts for hot-air balloon flights offered no guarantee at all (Weekend, December 14). Was he not interested, or did he presume there would be no strings attached?

Yours faithfully,
GARETH BOOTE,
13 Bathaston Grove,
Leigh, Lancashire,
January 3.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Language, culture and nationhood

From Mr Richard Alexander

Sir, Mr Peter Stockhill, in support of his argument that black American English, or Ebonics, is a valid separate language, not only refers to the undeniable cultural contribution that African Americans have made, but goes on to state that "language is perceived as a stepping-stone to nationhood" (letter, January 2). The first is a non-sequitur, the second is simply not necessarily the case.

That a group, ethnic or otherwise, has a separate culture, or even cultural identity, from those surrounding it does not in itself mean that that group has a separate language. Merseyside has made a clear cultural contribution to this country, both in music and in poetry, yet few would suggest that the Scouse dialect is anything more than a variant of English.

As for language as a claim to national identity, Austrians are very clear that theirs is a distinct nation, not merely an independent country, with a separate identity encompassing history and some of Europe's greatest musical contributions. But they do not claim that their language is other than a dialect of German, no more distinct than that of Bavaria or the Palatinate.

Furthermore, it is to be noted that where a language has been cited in support of a separate national identity, as in the case of Welsh, Lithuanian or Catalan, it has tended to differ rather more markedly from that of the dominant group than does Ebonics.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD ALEXANDER,
9 Chertsey, Sevenoaks, Kent,
January 2.

London walks

From Mr Neville Labovitch

Sir, I support Mr Stephen O'Brien's plea (letter, December 28) for a new year drive to improve the lot of the London walker. The 12-mile Silver Jubilee Walkway surely provides the foundation for a range of such improvements as he suggests.

As a result of work over 20 years a traffic-free walkway from Lambeth Palace to Tower Bridge already exists: much could be done along the Silver Jubilee Walkway's route on the North Bank — Mr O'Brien's suggested sites of Horse Guards Road and Parade, Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square all lie on it.

If the authorities concerned were to co-ordinate plans it would be possible to amalgamate these improvements into a significant and lasting contribution to millennium year.

And why just London? Every big city could contribute to such a campaign.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE LABOVITCH
(Chairman, Silver Jubilee Walkway Trust), 23 Ennismore Gardens, SW7, January 3.

BBC World Service

From Mr Michael Kane

Sir, The report, "The Archers recover their lost past in Tokyo and Kentucky" (January 2), proves how important *The Archers* series is to expats and Anglophiles around the world. Therefore, why doesn't the World Service broadcast it, either daily or in a weekly omnibus?

Perhaps John Birt's much-feared internal restructuring of the World Service will actually benefit listeners if it forces programmers to look to the wealth of BBC material currently heard only in the United Kingdom, to the impoverishment of the rest of the English-speaking world.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL KANE,
30-43 37th Street,
Astoria,
New York 11103,
January 2.

Cold calculation

From Mrs Noel McLeod

Sir, Your general weather forecast for today predicts scattered light snow showers in eastern coastal parts but more "organised" sleet or snow in southernmost parts of England and Wales.

Organised by whom? And could the organiser be persuaded to organise something different?

Yours faithfully,
NOEL MCLEOD,
48 Witley Court,
Coram Street, WC1,
January 3.

Fair play

From Mr Alan Richardson

Sir, Having sampled the welter of criticism of the England cricket team for their performance in Zimbabwe, I think that it should be pointed out, in the interest of balance, that on this tour England twice defeated Matabeleland quite decisively, in a one-day match and a four-day match.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN RICHARDSON,
Tallinn,
12b St Martin's Avenue,
Epsom, Surrey,
January 4.

OBITUARIES

BARRY EAST



Barry East, property developer, died on December 26 aged 81. He was born on June 5, 1915.

Barry East was one of the leading figures in Britain's postwar commercial property boom. Along with such men as Jack Cotton, Joe Levy and Harold Samuel, he helped to change the face of countless towns and cities, transforming their commercial centres with new office and retail developments. The company he founded in 1955, Town & City Properties, had grown by 1973 to be the second largest public property company in the country. The collapse in the property market of 1974 hit it hard, however, and only a reverse takeover by Jeffrey (now Lord) Sterling's Sterling Guaranty Trust saved Town & City from disaster; it was to be almost a decade before it returned to profits. The company now forms part of the P&O Group.

Bertrand David (Barry) East was born in London and educated at Southdown College and the Regent Street Polytechnic. In 1933 he was articled to a City firm of chartered surveyors; two years later he went into practice on his own account in Mount Street, Mayfair.

He volunteered for the Army and served in the Royal Engineers, finishing the war with the rank of captain. A chance postwar encounter with an old friend, Sam Messer, led him to the London office of another postwar property giant, Jack Cotton, where Messer was a partner; within months East was a partner himself. He remained with the practice for ten years before leaving in 1956 to form Town & City Properties.

In London, Town & City was to acquire such landmark buildings as Berkeley Square House in Mayfair and the Adelphi building in the Strand; it also had a stake in the exhibition halls at Olympia and Earls Court. But East was, above all, a retail specialist, and Town & City was a property developer in the most active sense.

His schemes transformed (or better, reformed) the centres of such towns as Uxbridge and Basingstoke; and, through one of its acquisitions, the Arndale Property Trust, it was involved in the creation of the covered shopping centres which began to revolutionise retailing in the 1960s and 1970s. It also undertook prominent station developments at Holborn Viaduct, Moorgate and Waterloo, and was one of the first UK property companies to expand overseas, holding investments in Europe, the United States and Australia.

A dignified, quietly spoken man, nicknamed "the whispering baritone" by his friends, East approached business with an attitude that was calm, rational and, for much of his career, essentially cautious, anxious to balance new developments against existing assets. Under his direction, Town & City stuck mostly to what it did best, never venturing outside property and rarely straying beyond the commercial sphere; its residential interests were insignificant and its portfolio aimed at balance, with 40 per cent in offices, 40 per cent in shops, 10 per cent in industrial developments and 10 per cent overseas.

Throughout the 1960s Town & City grew steadily by a mixture of property purchases and company acquisitions. The latter were always uncontested — East had no appetite for hostile takeovers — and included Arndale, Eldonville (the industrial developer built up by the future Lord Young of Gramscot) and the Laurie Group run by two rising property men of the younger generation, Stephen Laurie and Elliott Bennett. Unlike some of his more flamboyant rivals, who ran what seemed like one-man shows, East was always ready to draw on the managerial expertise acquired in these takeovers, and he worked closely with a small and able team.

In the heady days of the early 1970s, however, when it must have looked as if property values could only go on rising, East's natural caution seems to have been swept aside in the euphoria that gripped the rest of the property sector. In the summer of 1973, with an expansion programme of well over £300 million already under way, Town & City made two further massive acquisitions in the space of ten days, taking over Sterling Land for £28 million and Central and District Properties for £97 million.

Those acquisitions put the company's assets in the region of £600 million, but they also took its borrowings past the £300 million mark. In combination with a number of city-centre developments of unprecedented scale and complexity, the expansion left Town & City helplessly over-exposed when the property market crashed the following year.

Sterling Guaranty Trust merged with Town & City in what amounted to a reverse takeover in June 1974; the companies had already collaborated on development projects. At the time, East's property company was, in Jeffrey Sterling's words, "bleeding in

own analogy of the miner's lamp with red hair and lively personality to match. "Togs" Mellersh set an RAF record more than half a century ago by shooting down nine V-1 missiles on one night sortie. During a three-month period in the summer of 1944 he was credited with a total of up to 42 so-called "doodle-bugs", bringing them down over the Channel or open country before they could reach London and other towns in the South East.

Targeting the fast-moving "buzz-bombs" was a daunting task. They outpaced the British Mosquitoes whose pilots had to dive down on them at speed, opening fire with split-second timing and total accuracy. But Mellersh, already a veteran night-fighter at the age of 21 when he joined 96 Squadron at Ford, Sussex, in June that year, had perfected the technique. His skill and daring were recognised that October with the award of his second DFC.

He had won his first 12 months earlier during the air war above the Mediterranean theatre. After joining the RAF Volunteer Reserve (RAFVR) in 1940 and serving as a night-fighter pilot in Britain for most of the next two years, he flew out to North Africa in a Beaufighter to join 600 Squadron on Christmas Day, 1942. During the preceding eight months he had laid claim to seven enemy aircraft (plus one "probable") above the Western Desert, Sicily and Italy; he

all directions". It was, however, too big to be allowed to fail, particularly in the light of the secondary banking crisis then developing. The process of recovery proved to be slow; after disposals totalling some £500 million, and diversification into the service sector, the company finally returned a £9 million pre-tax profit in 1983.

East had stepped down as chairman when Sterling took over. He remained as president, but chose not to draw his annual consultancy fee of £20,000 until such time as the company's dividends had returned to the level which they were at in 1972-73. The consultancy agreement expired in 1980.

On his retirement from active business, East devoted himself to sport, his other great love. His lifetime involvement with the world of amateur football came about when he took an Army team to play Leytonstone Football Club at the end of the war. The Army won by three goals to nil, but East was asked to join the Leytonstone committee. He was honorary secretary for many years, before becoming president; when, after three mergers, the club became part of Dagenham & Redbridge. East was the first president of the merged club. He was watching the team play in very cold conditions on Boxing Day when he collapsed and died.

East's involvement in sport extended beyond his presidencies of Dagenham & Redbridge and of the Isthmian Football League. He was a vice-president of the Essex County Football Association and of the Essex County Cricket Club, where he was instrumental in the building of the pavilion at Chelmsford, which became the permanent county headquarters. He was also a member of the 1974 Commonwealth Games Committee and of the 1976 Olympic Games Committee and a life member of the Olympic Games Association.

His extensive charitable work and contributions reflected his sporting links. He was president of appeals of the National Playing Fields Association in 1975 and a vice-president thereafter and purchased, refurbished and donated the association's headquarters in Belgrave.

Other organisations to benefit from his generosity included the Basingstoke Sports Trust, European Architectural Heritage, the Essex Schools Football Association, and St Catharine's College, Cambridge, where he funded environmental studies. He preferred to support lesser-known causes without publicity.

His first wife, Gladys Stone, whom he married in 1947, died in 1957. He married, secondly, Elizabeth Glenister in 1960; the marriage was dissolved and she died in 1995. He is survived by two sons from his first marriage.

MIREILLE

Mireille, actress, singer and composer, died in Paris on December 29 aged 90. She was born in the same city on September 30, 1906.



Mireille may not have been the most illustrious of singers, but — particularly through her own compositions — she did as much as almost anyone this century to promote the cause of *la chanson française*. She was the author of more than 600 songs, a formidable stage presence in her own right and mentor and teacher to much younger talent.

Born Mireille Haruch to a Polish father and English mother, she was ten when she was heard playing the piano by the virtuoso Francis Planté, a man who had known Rossini and Liszt. Planté took charge of her musical education but soon saw that she would never be a concert pianist (her hands were too small to cover an octave).

Instead, she turned to the theatre, playing Cherubin in *Le Mariage de Figaro* and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Firmin Gémier's Odéon. It was here that she became aware of her gift for composition and also that she met Jean Nohain, the lawyer with a penchant for writing lyrics, whose words would be paired with all her most successful melodies. Their joint activity began in 1928 with an "American-style" opera, *Faustine*; it was published, but not performed.

Mireille — Gémier had advised her to drop the Haruch — then continued with her acting career, playing alongside the young Jean Gabin in the opera *Flossie*, and with Buster Keaton in one of his short films. At a stint at the Café de Paris in London, she took the lead in Noël Coward's production of *Manon* (La Crevette on Broadway). She met Cole Porter and George Gershwin and went on to compose several film scores in Hollywood.

Her French breakthrough

that broke with the dour realism or vulgar comedy then in vogue.

As one of its most famous representatives, Charles Trenet, would later declare: "I was lucky to arrive at a time when, thanks to Mireille and Jean Nohain, French song had undergone a veritable revolution and people no longer believed that a music-hall artiste had to stand there and utter idiotic rhymes."

In addition to Trenet (*Le Vieux Château*) the artists who sang Mireille's compositions included Maurice Chevalier (*Quand un Vi-comte*) and Yves Montand (*Une Demoiselle sur une Balconière*). Even Jacques Brel covered what remained her favourite, *Le Petit Chémis*.

Diminutive but charismatic, Mireille was, in the words of her friend Sacha Guitry, "lucky not to be handicapped by a big voice". Hers was light, slightly sharp and served by perfect diction. In

1934, urged by her friends, she began to perform and record her own songs. She would continue to do so sporadically throughout her career.

Georges Bravens later paid her tribute by inviting her to sing with him at Bobino and she made her first video in 1991, at the age of 86. In 1995 the director of the Théâtre National Populaire, Jérôme Savary, persuaded her to make a solo performance in the evocatively named Salle Gémier: there she was, a still sparkling presence in a regal Lacroix gown behind her trademark white grand piano.

In 1930, Mireille had married "my Voltaire" — Emmanuel Berl — an eminent intellectual and editor of *Marianne*. Although she coquettishly claimed to have read none of her husband's books, the relationship remained solid until Berl's death in 1976.

During the war, when Mireille was banned from performing on stage or over the radio, the couple took refuge in the Corrèze and hid their friend André Malraux from the police. Mireille played an active role in the Resistance, and on one occasion helped to save many lives by averting a German attack on the Maquis.

In 1954, Mireille founded her Petit Conservatoire de la Chanson in Rue de l'Université, Paris. It was the first attempt at organised tuition of the singer and songwriter's art, and it was an enduring one: some 80,000 students attended Mireille's lessons over the next four decades, among them Michel Berger, Hugues Aufray, Françoise Hardy and Colette Magny.

Not that Mireille claimed much credit. As she declared with a characteristic mixture of trenchancy and modesty: "It is always the students who teach me. I have never taught anyone anything. Charm and *gauloise* cannot be inculcated. What I can do is help, detect, talk."

She had no children.

AIR VICE-MARSHAL F. R. L. MELLERSH

Air Vice-Marshal F. R. L. ("Togs") Mellersh, CB, DFC and Bar, died on December 19 aged 74. He was born on July 30, 1922.

was decorated in September 1943. Later, back in Britain, he added another German bomber to his tally.

It might be said that Francis Richard Lee Mellersh was following in his father's footsteps. Born in the village of Edwalton, Nottinghamshire, he was the son of Air Vice-Marshal Sir Francis "Tog" Mellersh, a distinguished pilot



lot with the Royal Naval Air Service in the First World War (later to suffer a violent death in a helicopter accident).

It was his nanny who conferred on Mellersh junior the pet-name of "Togs" — originally "Tog's" — after his father. Disliking all of his Christian names, he happily adopted it and was never known henceforth as anything else.

He went from Winchester House School to the Imperial Service College (then run jointly with Haileybury) where he showed a natural aptitude for all sports. On leaving school, however, he was immediately swept up by the war.

A flight lieutenant when the war ended, Mellersh began his ascent up the RAF ladder. He served for a time as an instructor, ran the Belfast University Air Squadron, attended the staff college (then at Andover) and spent some time in Egypt with the Middle East Air Force. In 1957 he joined the directing staff at staff college (in Bracknell by this time) then went on to command the RAF station at West Raynham, 1958-67.

The final phase of his career included a sequence of important staff jobs. He was Chief of Control Plans at Nato's Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Europe (SHAPE) in Paris, 1967-68, Senior Air Staff Officer (SASO) in RAF Germany, 1970-72, and Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations), 1972-74, before moving to Training Command Headquarters on his last job, in charge of officer training. He finally retired in 1977 and was appointed CBE in the same year.

Mellersh surprised friends in his retirement by settling down to a quiet country life at Romney Marsh. He chaired the parish council, made his own wine — which he drank from a silver goblet and pronounced excellent — and discovered a passion for gardening. Despite three hip replacements, he tackled everything he took on with his customary energy.

"Togs" Mellersh's first marriage was dissolved. He is survived by his second wife Lisa, a White Russian whom he met in Paris while at SHAPE, and by three children, two sons from his first marriage and a daughter by his second.

JIM RODGER



Jim Rodger, OBE, sports journalist and fundraiser, died in Larnarkshire on January 3 aged 74. He was born in Shotts on March 13, 1922.

FROM MINISTERS were plenty in his hand, church leaders accepted his instructions without question: by some wrote cheques for large amounts of money whenever he requested it. Jim Rodger was a phenomenon on both sides of the border; in Scotland, however, he was an institution.

To watch him take charge of Margaret Thatcher at a Newspaper Press Fund lunch in Glasgow, was to witness a man incapable of being overawed. "Where do I go, Jim?" she asked. "You'll be OK, Jim," he assured her. "Just follow me." Whatever you say, Jim, answered the Prime Minister meekly.

Something of his reputation, both as a football writer of extraordinary influence, and a fundraiser without parallel in the tributes which flowed in over the weekend after the announcement of his death.

From Tony Blair, who had no hesitation in calling him "a legendary figure", to Alex Ferguson, manager of Manchester United, who described him as "a giant of a man — my mentor throughout my career" there was general agreement that he possessed some quality of personality, drive, energy, or perhaps obsession that raised him to a position of influence far beyond the apparent boundaries of his profession. The Shadow Scottish Secretary, George Robertson, said that he was a brilliant backroom operator, whose "unique combination of charm and relentless persistence made him one of the most formidable political and sporting characters in Scotland."

Jim Rodger, born and brought up in Shotts, Lanarkshire, began his career as a miner, working underground at Caldergroun in the era of pit ponies. In later days he always liked to describe himself as the "wee pit boy from Shotts," and he regularly talked of the "glowing light" of the miner's lamp as the perfect image for his fundraising activities. But it was as a football reporter that he first made his national reputation. It is hard now to convey just how great his influence was — it would be inconceivable today, however cosy the financial relations between the tabloid press and leading football clubs.

For 40 years on the *Daily Record*, and later the *Daily Express* and the *Daily Mirror*, Jim Rodger was a kingmaker in the football world, his scoop as remarkable for its accuracy as for its timing. He pointed the young Alex Ferguson in the direction of his first big job, as manager of Aberdeen, then helped to engineer his move to Manchester United.

In similar fashion, he spotted the potential of the late Jack Stein and eased him into his first job at Dunfermline, advising him on all his later moves, up and including the management of the national team. He broke nearly all the big Scottish transfer stories of his day, including the moves of Denis Law to Torino and back to Manchester United, Jim Baxter from Rangers to Sunderland, Martin Buchan from Aberdeen to Manchester United, and Steve Archibald from Aberdeen to Spurs.

At the same time, he won the trust of everyone he dealt with. Bill Nicholson, the manager of Tottenham Hotspur, once handed him for safekeeping the entire allocation of Rangers tickets for a European Cup Winners match against Spurs at White Hart Lane. Jim slept with them under his pillow before delivering them safely to the Rangers headquarters next day.

A lifelong Labour supporter, he took a keen interest in politics, and was an avid collector of the volumes published by Victor Gollancz under the Left Book Club imprint. He helped Harold Wilson to launch his general election campaign in Glasgow in 1966, and his contacts in the party continued to be impeccable. Tony Blair described him as "one of the most remarkable organisers of our time. He was never off the phone with ideas and suggestions."

But when it came to fundraising, his other great love, party barriers simply disappeared. No one could ever quite explain why Jim threw himself so avidly into raising money for the Newspaper Press Fund, a charity devoted to helping retired journalists down on their luck. But his

own analogy of the miner's lamp with red hair and lively personality to match. "Togs" Mellersh set an RAF record more than half a century ago by shooting down nine V-1 missiles on one night sortie. During a three-month period in the summer of 1944 he was credited with a total of up to 42 so-called "doodle-bugs", bringing them down over the Channel or open country before they could reach London and other towns in the South East.

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As well as fundraising for the NPF, he helped the families of prisoners at his local prison, Shotts, and also served as a JP. In 1988 he was appointed OBE for his charitable work.

Round of face, short of stature, substantial of waist, Jim Rodger was an archetypal West of Scotland man, quite impervious to any distinctions of class or creed, as much at home in the manager's boardroom as on the terraces, with a network of contacts that any ordinary politician would have died for. A great raconteur, his best stories, he admitted, tend to revolve around himself. But since his interests and enthusiasms so obviously embraced humanity in its broadest aspects, no one could seriously hold that against him.

He is survived by his wife Cathy and a daughter.

Church news

The Rev David Ainge, Vicar, Leyton, St Mary w St Edward and St Luke, and Rural Dean of Waltham Forest (Cheshamford); to be also a Non-Residential Canon of Cheshamford Cathedral.

The Rev Canon William Andrew; to be Honorary Curate, West Swindon and The Lyttons (Bristol).

The Rev Paul Avis, Vicar, Stoke Canon, Pudding w Hucham, and Rector w Netherwood (Exeter); to be also Sub-Dean of Exeter Cathedral.

The Rev Rodney Biddle, Vicar, Shrewsbury St George; to be also Priest-in-charge, Eton, Montford w Shrawardine and Fitz (Richfield).

The Rev Michael Burke, Vicar, St Lawrence, Canon Pym; St Mary the Virgin, Kings Pym; St Peter, Bide; to be also Priest-in-charge, St Margaret of Antioch, Wellington (Hereford).

The Rev Michael Calbridge, Priest-in-charge, Wellington. Christ Church; to be Vicar Wellington, Christ Church (Richfield).

The Rev David Cawley, Vicar, St

Mary de Castro, Leicester, Chaplain of Trinity Hospital, Leicester, and the Sovereign's Preacher at The Newark; to be also Minister of special pastoral responsibility for St Nicholas, and Honorary Team Vicar within the Holy Spirit Team Ministry, Leicester.

The Rev Joy Chapman, Team Vicar, Bicknell and Baginall (Lichfield); to be Chaplain to the Leicestershire Organisation for the Relief of Suffering (LOROS).

The Rev Nicholas Flint, Team Vicar, Lichfield; to be Priest-in-charge, Rasper w Colgate (Chichester).

The Rev Jonathan Greener, Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop of Truro; to be Vicar, Brighton Preston. The Good Shepherd (Chichester).

The Rev John Harris, Vicar, Moldgreen; to be Priest-in-charge, South Ossett Christ Church (Wakefield).

The Rev Paul Hartley, Team Vicar, Gulseley w Esholt (Bradford); to be Rector, St Cuthbert, Ackworth (Wakefield).

The Rev Charles Lawrence, formerly Vicar, Saddleworth (Manchester); to be Vicar, Ellingham w Little Bookham (Guildford).

The Rev John Lawson, Team Vicar, The Dovebury Team Ministry (Wakefield); to continue as Team Vicar for a further two years.

The Rev Christopher Martin, Priest-in-charge, St Ippolyts; to be the Incumbent, St Ippolyts (St Albans).

The Rev Peter Mickelthwait, Assistant Curate, Wisley w Pyrlford; to be Rector, Windesham (Guildford).

The Rev David Newman, Vicar, Ockbrook and Borrowash (Derby); to be Team Rector, Loughborough Emmanuel and Nantpanan St Mary (Leicester).

The Rev Clive Potter, Assistant Curate, Christ Church, Epsom; to be Team Vicar, Westborough (Guildford).

The Rev Geoffrey Read, Team Vicar, Westborough; to be Team Rector, Westborough, (Guildford).

At 40 minutes past 9 o'clock last night, in Rutland-house, Arlington-street, died, his Royal Highness FREDERICK, Duke of YORK and ALBANY, in the 64th year of his age. The painful indisposition of his Royal Highness has long been a subject of notoriety and regret. It had for some time assumed a form which indicated a general breaking up of the constitution and which, in their despair of a complete recovery, left the medical attendants no hope but that of administering some powerful mitigation to suffering in their nature too powerful for human skill to contend with. The deceased Prince, whose kindness of disposition rendered him popular in his lifetime, and will make his death generally lamented, had been what is termed a free liver. He liked wine — he loved play — and he had other tastes — unfortunately too often indulged in by men of all professions, but of which the cultivation is perhaps less excusable in many other walks of life than in those of the Prince, beset from infancy by the seductions of a Court — and the soldier, to whom, if his mind be not of more than ordinary intellectual and moral force, habits of licentiousness come fatally recommended by those of his reckless associates. We are not now excusing the miserable morality which interposed the prejudices and conventions of artificial life, between that to

ON THIS DAY

January 6, 1827



A second leader paid glowing tribute to the Duke — he was "cheerful, affable, open, brave... humane and compassionate to all..." These were generous sentiments from the paper whose proprietor, John Walters, had been imprisoned in 1789 for libelling the Duke which Providence has affixed the seal of actual guilt with all its dreadful consequences, and the grave reprehension which, in the eye of truth, of virtue, and religion, belongs to it; but, in judging the individual man, it is neither unpardonable nor unreasonable to allow for the temptations which beset him, and the greater less facility of resistance which his place in the world affords. Besides the Duke of YORK's attachment to the excesses of the table; to gambling on the turf and elsewhere; and to another class of immoral indulgences, which, without being named, may be sufficiently comprehended: his Royal Highness was weakly — we are bound to add culpably,

as well as most unhappy, insensible to the real use of money. Notwithstanding the vast income afforded him by the liberality of the British nation, he contracted enormous debts, without the means, or even the thought, as it would appear, of discharging them; and involved in distress many hundreds of families. This, unhappily, regarded as one of the most venial offences of the aristocracy of England, it is positive injustice: it may not be deliberate, but it is intrinsic robbery. It finds men careless, — it makes them callous, — it ends by plunging debtor and creditor into the same gulf of despair. It is notorious how much the rapidity of the Duke of YORK's disorder was accelerated by the growing pressure of his pecuniary difficulties. So severe, so degrading were the forms in which those embarrassments assailed the Prince, that neither a horse, nor furniture, nor horse, nor tangible property of any kind, remained in his possession. Yet, this destitute and fallen — owing an enormous debt, of which he could not pay a shilling — with the restless grasp of death about him, through what Demon was it, that this ill-advised member of the Royal Family commenced the building of a Palace, the construction, decoration and furnishing of which, were not to be completed for less than half a million sterling!

POSTCODE _____

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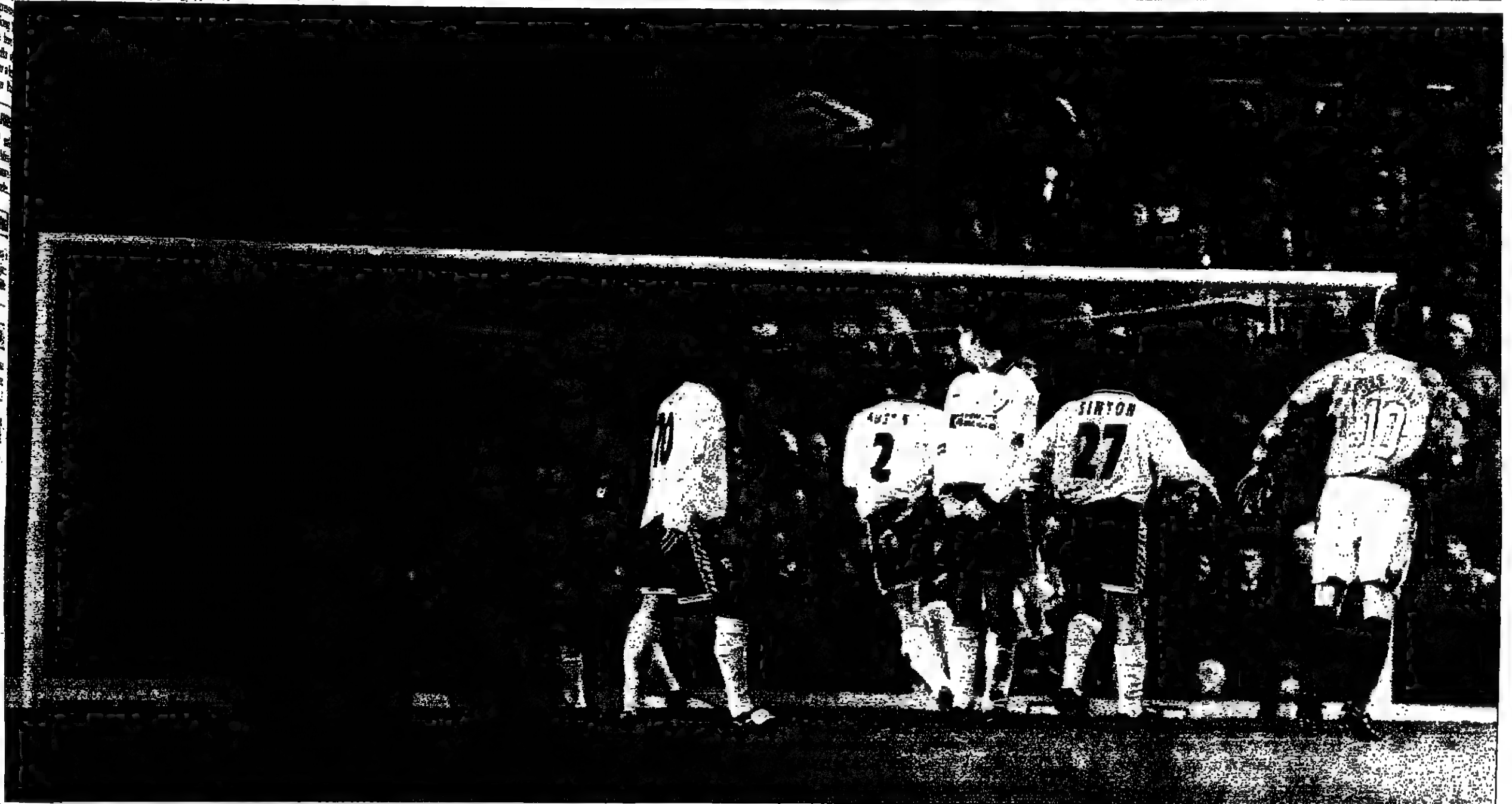
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 6 1997

GALLANTRY UNREWARDED AS HOLDERS OPEN FA CUP DEFENCE



Walker, the goalkeeper, is left helpless as Beckham, right, breaches the Tottenham defensive wall to score Manchester United's second goal at Old Trafford yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Beckham blunts Spurs

Manchester United 2
Tottenham Hotspur 0
By ROSE HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

MANCHESTER, United, attempting an unprecedented fourth consecutive appearance in the FA Cup Final, overcame a tactically proficient, tenacious Tottenham Hotspur before 52,495 spectators at Old Trafford yesterday. They then learnt that their visitors in the next round will be the other London branch of perseverance, Wimbledon FC, assuming no heroics from Crewe Alexandra when their third-round tie is played.

However, we must hail the spirit and ingenuity with which Tottenham made such a game of it yesterday. They arrived without six quality players — Sheringham, Armstrong, Anderton, Scales, Mabbitt and Iversen. Moreover, Tottenham have now travelled to Old Trafford 13 times since the start of Alex

Ferguson's tenure and won but twice.

So, even history was against the white-shirted innocents in this third-round tie, which should have been such a classic. Manchester United, winners of the FA Cup nine times, and Tottenham, its holders on eight occasions, share the most illustrious pasts in a tournament that has run for 125 years.

Yet how do you take on United when your team has been ravaged and when it has recently conceded six goals at Bolton Wanderers and then seven at Newcastle United. The faith that poured down from the Tottenham section of this crowd, their blue and white balloons filling the air, was defiance and outrageous optimism personified.

It was later to turn nasty: "Are you Arsenal in disguise?" the fans in white taunted; "End of your season!" the red brigades responded. Why must they do it? Why is it not enough to support a team and take the game at face value?

At least, on the field, Tottenham let no one down. They had an emergency strike force in two 19-year-olds, Rory Allen paired with Neil Fenn, so ebullient on his first outing for the first team. Behind them, Sinton, brought in from the wing, was creative and leant his experience to those around him. Better still, Howells, in the anchor role, was a true captain of the depleted force.

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And then there was Campbell. "Big Garth," he was dubbed as a youth; big indeed in the way he dealt with Cantona's opportunities. More redeployment came on the flanks, particularly the right where Carr and Austin tried to contain the pace and trickery of Giggs. That should not sound too negative, for Tottenham came to play football, to counter-attack with pace and movement.

Ferguson said: "It was a credit to Gerry Francis that he could pull a team out of the hat like that. What gave us a little edge was the two young players up front against the experience of May and Johnsen."

Ferguson further identified Keane, the embodiment of cup-tie spirit and dynamism as "marvellous — there was not a player within a thousand miles of him, the way he found a red jersey all the time". Perhaps so, but Keane also has a reckless streak that, in the 31st minute could have got him sent off.

He raced behind Nielsen, he fouled him wickedly and then pursued the ball, raising his boot in an ugly fashion against the out-stretched leg of Edinburgh. A yellow card for two yellow-card offences and, come the European Cup resumption, Keane will not get away with that.

United, meanwhile, had profited from Allen's inexperience when, from a cross by Fenn, he mis-headed the ball from a scoring position at the far post. Gradually Beckham was inviting United to break through. In the 26th minute, Giggs squandered a wonderful centre from Beckham when he allowed Walker to make a superb save. The goalkeeper arched his back and palmed the ball away with both hands; and yet, from eight yards, Giggs should not have allowed him the glory.

By half-time, United became almost a 4-2-4 attacking formation, with Cantona wide on the left, Beckham on the right and Giggs doing what Cantona seemed reluctant to do — playing through the middle close to Cole.

Spurs had grown in confidence, had moved the ball impressively before half-time. But, just after, came the breakthrough. Beckham initiated it, Cole, with his best moment of the match, provided the through ball and Scholes scored with a sharp, low shot from an acute angle.

"Pass the ball to the net" was a piece of advice one Bill Nicholson, the manager of the great push-and-run Tottenham side, used to advise Jimmy Greaves. Scholes looked quite a pupil.

But Beckham was to finish the match as a contest nine minutes from time with a peerless free kick. We talk of Brazilians being able to conjure bias and swerve at their will on a dead ball. Beckham can do that, too.

Caldwell, lucky not to receive his second caution when he brought down Giggs, was punished when Beckham addressed the free kick from 27 yards. He ran at it side on, he used the instep of his right foot, yet he produced not only the guile and spin, but also tremendous ferocity, giving Walker not a ghost of a chance as the ball arced into the roof of his net.

Tottenham had spirit. At times Fenn looked a player for the present rather than the future. He gave May a hard time and later we learnt that the United defender will have an operation today on a hernia problem that has troubled him for two months.

Irwin, taken off with a hamstring strain, may also miss the next match, which happens to be next Sunday, against Tottenham at White Hart Lane. "People think our season is over," Francis said. "It hurts to be out of the Cup at the first attempt, but those players did us proud today. It's not unrealistic for us to aim to finish high enough in the league to reach Europe."

MANCHESTER UNITED 4-4-1-1: P Scholes — D Howells, D May, R Johnson, D Irwin (sub, B McCull, Smeil) — D Beckham, R Keane, P Scholes, R Giggs — E Cantona — A Cole (sub, O Sooker, 77).
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 4-4-2: Walker — S Carr, D Austin, C Caldwell, S Campbell, J Edinburgh — D Howells — A Nelson, A Sinton — R Allen, N Fenn.
Referee: S Lodge

Liverpool head for Bridge of ties

FOOTBALL'S FA Cup fourth-round draw consisted mostly of ifs, buts and maybes yesterday, with 50 clubs still involved because of delayed third-round matches or replays. Yet from the endless possibilities, it was not difficult to pick out the most compelling tie — Chelsea against Liverpool at Stamford Bridge (Russell Kempson writes).

The teams met on New Year's Day, with Chelsea making the most of home advantage to win 1-0, Roberto Di Matteo scoring the goal. Earlier in the season they had lost 5-1 at Anfield in the FA Cup. Premier League. Liverpool, beaten finalists last season, have drifted out to 7-1 to win the competition while Chelsea are rated a 12-1 chance by William Hill, the bookmaker. Manchester United, the holders, have been made favourites, at 9-2, but are unlikely to relish the probable visit of Wimbledon to Old Trafford, if the London club first dispose of Crewe Alexandra in the third round.

Newcastle United, second favourites at 6-1, could also face Premiership opposition over the weekend of January 25 and 26 if they overcome Charlton Athletic after a 1-1 draw yesterday. Victory

would give them a home tie against Nottingham Forest. A meeting between Arsenal and Leeds United at Highbury is also possible, should they defeat Sunderland and Crystal Palace respectively.

Of the remaining non-league clubs, Woking will play away to Blackburn Rovers, if they first beat Coventry City, while Hednesford Town's reward for defeating York City would be a home game against Middlesbrough. Reading, 3-1 conquerors of Southampton, one of only two Premiership sides knocked out at the weekend, travel to Portsmouth.

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FA CUP FOURTH ROUND DRA

Blackburn Rovers v Woking	Walsley v West Ham United
Charlton Athletic v Nottingham Forest	Nottingham Forest v Blackburn Rovers
Sheff Wed v Coventry City or Woking	
Leeds United v Sunderland or Chesterfield or Bristol City	
Birmingham City v Stoke City or Blackpool City	
QPR or Huddersfield Town v Barnsley or Oldham Athletic	
Portsmouth v Reading	
Cardiff City or Tranmere Rovers v Sheffield Wednesday	
Exeter v Bradford City	
Hednesford Town or York City v Middlesbrough	
Crewe v Liverpool	
Gillingham or Derby County v Notts County or Aston Villa	
Leicester City or Southampton v Norwich City	
Accrington v Sunderland or Crystal Palace or Leeds United	
Brentford or Manchester City v Watford or Oxford United	
Middlesbrough v Crewe Alexandra or Wimbledon	

Replays to be played on January 25 and 26

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BBC earns little credit from inflexible friends

Bad, better, best would be the alliterative way to describe the BBC's progress through the third round of the FA Cup. Awful, so-so and as good as a slightly disappointing live encounter between Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur would allow would be the honest way.

Let us deal with the worst first. *Football Focus* was so bad that, if the orange ball that we later saw bouncing round the Racecourse Ground turned out to be the producer's head, I would not be surprised. It was that awful.

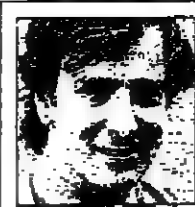
Television is supposed to be the instant medium, delivering the news as it happens, if not before. So, how come a no doubt blameless Gary Lineker had to introduce special film reports about Woking and Hedsford and an interview

with Nigel Martyn, the Leeds United goalkeeper? Their matches were postponed at least the day before.

The inability of the *Football Focus* team to think on its feet, especially when it had been clear for days that most attempts at giant-killing would have to wait, was simply astonishing. Any newspaper journalist knows about having a perfectly good story "spiked" because it has been overtaken by events.

Different rules, though, apparently apply at *Football Focus*, where the running order appeared to have been written in stone some 48 hours earlier. "Hedsford's off, boss — shall we do something else?" Certainly not. "Coven-try's off, too — do we still want John Sillett as studio guest?" Of course, we do.

Which is how we came to



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

spend Saturday lunchtime listening to the amiable Sillett pronounce on several games that would not take place for another ten days.

It is not as if there were not alternatives available. John Motson and John Champion were already in place at St Andrew's and the Racecourse Ground, respectively. Although Champion laboured valiantly with Brian Flynn, the manager of Wrexham, better use could have been made of the ever-reliable Motson. Then there was the flagship game

between Manchester United and Tottenham to look forward to. The montage of goals was terrific, but, on a day when upsets were clearly off the menu, more was needed.

Things improved modestly for *Match of the Day*: the *Road to Wembley*, but at least Des Lynam, Alan Hansen and Trevor Brooking provided an A-team line-up. The afternoon's results had ensured that it was never going to be the most exciting 75 minutes of football highlights, but the running order did not help.

Harry Redknapp, the manager of West Ham United, Lynam and Brooking were all agreed that what had taken place on the snow-covered Wrexham ground was not football. So why make it the first match, rather than Birmingham City's infinitely superior game against Stevenage Borough?

Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, knew the answer. "The only reason you lads are here," he said, gesturing at the camera, "was the hope of a Stevenage victory. That had not happened, but Wrexham, at least, had managed a draw. So they went first."

Yesterday, however, proved an infinitely brighter affair, with Charlton Athletic against Newcastle United live on Sky followed, not an hour later, by the live game from Old

Trafford on BBC1. Technically, there is nothing to choose between the terrestrial network and its satellite rival, while, behind the microphones, Martin Tyler and Andy Gray, for Sky, are every bit as good as Barry Davies and Brooking.

In terms of presentation, though, the BBC remains streets ahead, thanks largely to the affable authority of Lynam but helped immensely by the forthright presence of Hansen and the increasingly eccentric Jimmy Hill. In contrast, all Richard Keys had for company at The Valley was Lennie Lawrence and the Cup itself. Next season, of course, ITV becomes the terrestrial broadcaster for the FA Cup. Given the problems that ITV had with presentation during Euro 96, Lynam and Co are going to be much missed.

Torrance toppled by high-flying Hoch

SAM TORRANCE, of Scotland, was beaten 4 and 2 by Scott Hoch, of the United States, in the semi-final of the \$2.4 million Andersen Consulting world championship of golf in Scottsdale, Arizona. Hoch produced a superb performance, reeling off seven birdies and an eagle as he took control over the back nine. He said: "It doesn't get a whole lot better. I only had one poor shot today." Torrance, who only trailed by one hole after the front nine, said: "Scott played great. It was like running into a brick wall. On the front nine we knocked the flag out every hole. The back nine was frustrating."

Hoch's victory set up a 36-hole final against Greg Norman after the Australian cruised to a 5 and 4 victory over Hisayuki Sasaki, of Japan, in the other semi-final. Norman, the world No 1, said: "It was a good, solid performance. I blocked a few drives, but all in all I was hitting the ball crisply."

Burnett eases through

DARTS: Richie Burnett, of Wales, champion in 1995 and runner-up last year, cruised through his opening game in the Embassy world championship at Frinton Green, Surrey. Burnett beat Peter Hinkley, of Australia, by 3-1 yesterday. Burnett's relief at getting through safely, "The first round, because it is so short, is the most difficult match," he said. Burnett, 29, from Cwmparc, Glamorgan, is only seeded fourth because of lack of play in recent months.

Soma Singh injured

HOCKEY: Soma Singh, the Southgate and Great Britain defender, was rushed to hospital with a suspected broken ankle ten minutes into the first game of the Los Reyes international tournament in Barcelona on Saturday. Twice in the lead after goals from Duncan Wood, Southgate were forced to settle for a 2-2 draw against Polo Barcelona. Reading were in convincing form as they crushed FC Barcelona 10-1, Mark Pearn scoring a first-half hat-trick.

Cobras make their point

ICE HOCKEY: Newcastle Cobras must be grateful to the Superleague for deciding that a team losing in over-time will keep one point (Norman de Mesquita writes). Their 6-5 defeat to Basingstoke Bison on Saturday was their fourth over-time defeat. Trevor Redmond scoring the all-important goal in the fourth minute of the extra period. The Nottingham Panthers easily beat Manchester Storm 8-1 while Cardiff Devils outplayed Ayr Scottish Eagles 6-3.

Motorcyclist killed

MOTOR RALLYING: Jean-Pierre Leduc, the French motorcyclist, was killed yesterday in a fall during the second stage of the Dakar Rally, according to race organisers. The accident happened about halfway through the 544-kilometre stage from Tambacounda, in Senegal, to Kayes, in Mali. A fellow competitor alerted medical personnel to the accident by setting off warning flares, and a helicopter arrived on the scene within minutes, but Leduc, 45, was pronounced dead.

Pierce recovering well

TENNIS: Mary Pierce, the former Australian Open champion, upset Irina Spîrlea, of Romania, the No 5 seed, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in the first round of the Sydney International yesterday. Pierce, 21, a French-Canadian, who is regaining her form after a shoulder injury, was match-rusty after a three-month lay-off, but showed some of the power that won her the Open in 1995. Her next opponent will be Yayuk Basuki, of Indonesia.

Funaki in high spirits

SKI JUMPING: Kazuyoshi Funaki, of Japan, won the World Cup event, the third leg of the prestigious four-hill tournament, at Innsbruck on Saturday. Funaki edged out Primož Peterka, who took the lead in the four-hill overall standings. Funaki, 21, posted jumps of 71.6 and 113.5 metres on the hill which hosted the 1976 Olympic Games, to earn 254.1 points. The victory was Funaki's second on the hill and the sixth by a Japanese jumper in the four-hill tournament.

Sales lifts England

CRICKET: A determined 62 from David Sales, of Northamptonshire, lifted England to a 26-run victory over Pakistan in the opening Under-19 one-day international in Gujranwala on Saturday. The tourists batted first on a slow wicket and only Sales achieved any real fluency in his strokeplay. But Pakistan then slipped to 134 all out after failing to recover from an impressive opening burst from Surrey's Alex Tudor, who took three for 13.

Single-minded success

TENNIS: Todd Woodbridge, the doubles specialist, won only the second singles title of his career with a 6-2, 6-1 defeat of Scott Draper, his fellow Australian, in the final of the Australian hard-court championships in Adelaide yesterday. Woodbridge, who with Mark Woodforde has formed the best doubles combination in the world, needed only 58 minutes to overwhelm Draper. "It's great to get my own name up in lights," Woodbridge said.

ATHLETICS

Livingston banks on profitable return

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

AS A debt collector, Jason Livingston cannot be used to hearing people complain when extra cash is offered their way. But then Colin Jackson has never had the debt collectors round.

Livingston defeated Jackson twice over 60 metres on Saturday in the Birmingham Games, his first indoor competition in distinguished company since serving a four-year ban for failing a drugs test. Indoor sprinting was how Livingston made his name in 1992, winning the European title and running 6.51sec to hold a share in the continental record.

Later that year he was sent home from the Olympic Games in Barcelona. Thus "Baby Ben" met the same fate as Ben Johnson, his hero. Livingston, with the same squat, muscular appearance, buller start and shaven head as Johnson, protested his innocence but the ban stood and, instead of becoming a wealthy young athlete, entered a period of financial hardship.

A father of two, now 25, he is trying to rebuild his form in athletics while holding down a nine-to-five job. "I would rather be training full-time," Livingston said. But these are "exciting times", as he put it: he was referring to the introduction this year of prize-money for world championships, indoors and out.

While outdoor world champions will receive \$60,000 (about £35,000), and indoor winners \$30,000, there will be money for at least the first three and Livingston, judging by his showing on Saturday, cannot be discounted from being on the cheque list when the prize-money is handed out at the world indoor championships in Paris in March.

Johnson, if he can repeat at world level his 1994 European double on the same track, when he won the 60 metres and 60 metres hurdles, would earn \$100,000, but feels uncomfortable at the thought. Although many top athletes,

Michael Johnson among them, and their agents argued long and loud for prize-money at world championships, Jackson feels that money obscures the view of the medal.

"It is a shame they have prize-money for the championships," Jackson said. "We have the grand prix circuit for that. People should get ready for championships to win, not to finish as high up as you can so you can get the money. We have a lot of money given out in the grand prix final and a lot given out in the Golden Four. It takes away from the importance of winning the medal."

Jackson was unfazed by his double defeat, saying that, after five weeks training in Australia, he had not adjusted to the cold; he had not raced since August, nor was the occasion sufficiently important to fire him up. After two lean years, Jackson, still the sprint hurdles world record-holder indoors and out, is returning to a full indoor season.

Perhaps a busy indoor programme will help to resurrect the old Jackson. He will be 30 next month, still prime age for sprint hurdling. Admitting to failing power and rhythm last year, when he was fourth in the Olympics, Jackson said: "I have to learn to sprint again."

In their first race, Livingston recorded 6.69sec, Jackson 6.70sec. In the second, Livingston ran 6.66sec, Jackson 6.72sec. Livingston was not far off the 6.61sec he recorded in the corresponding meeting of 1992. If he can find another 0.10sec by February, as he did then, it should ensure his place in the Great Britain team for Paris.

However, competition for the two places is fierce. Apart from Jackson and Livingston, there is Darren Braithwaite, the runner-up in the last world indoor championships, in Barcelona two years ago, Jason Gardener, the world No 6 last year, and Ian Mackie, perhaps, Mackie will have a



Livingston, left, defeated Jackson twice over 60 metres in the Birmingham Games at the National Indoor Arena.

better idea whether he intends to aim for Paris after the Scottish championships on January 19.

Asked how it felt to be back, Livingston sounded less than enthusiastic. "It felt OK," he said. "There were no butterflies in my stomach but I know there are bigger tests to come."

Radcliffe left out of the running

PAULA RADCLIFFE, the British 5,000 metres record-holder, suffered her second successive World Cross Challenge series defeat on Saturday when she finished fourth in the Coca-Cola International cross country in Belfast (David Powell writes).

Radcliffe, trying to race herself back to fitness after a knee injury, and with the world championships in Turin in March as her target, faced an even tougher field in Belfast than she had in Co Durham the previous weekend. She has come

straight back in at the deep end, taking on Gete Wami, the world champion from Ethiopia, at both venues.

In Durham, Radcliffe was third behind Wami and Ekaterina Fidalov, from Romania. However, the Belfast organisers also brought in Julia Negura, the European champion, from Romania, and the Bedford athlete finished well behind all three of them.

The race was won by Fidalov, who had finished behind Radcliffe in the Olympic 5,000 metres final in Atlanta. Fidalov recorded

15min 39sec, outstripping Negura, with Wami three seconds behind the winner. There was a long gap to Radcliffe, but encouraging for Britain was the continued good form of Lucy Elliott, who, having been fourth in Durham, was fifth in Belfast.

Rob Denmark, who finished seventh, was the leading British finisher in the men's race. Jon Brown, after beating Daniel Komen, the 3,000 metres world record-holder, in Durham, did not run in Belfast. Milovan Wolde, from Ethiopia, was a narrow winner.

life for a second offence but Livingston has returned several clean samples since his first suspension. "In the past five weeks I have been tested twice," he said.

As the crisis within the British Athletic Federation (BAF) deepens, Malcolm Arnold, the head coach, said that a full squad would be sent to Paris and that athletes would not be left at home as a money-saving exercise, as happened with the European cross-country championships. After it was revealed on Thursday that Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman since 1985, had left, it emerged at the weekend that Stephen Gledhill, the federation's financial director, has handed in his notice.

Gledhill's departure comes within 12 months of John Lister standing down as treasurer after ten years in the post. Staff at the BAF are living on their nerves over prospective redundancies and morale within the federation has never been lower.

BASKETBALL

McGee ends Leicester's pain

By NICHOLAS HARLING

JUST six weeks after breaking two bones in his back, Leon McGee confirmed his rapid rehabilitation on Saturday by hitting Crystal Palace for 30 points to end a bleak period for Leicester Riders.

It was hardly a coincidence that within a game of the 6ft, 3in playmaker from Bartle Creek, Michigan hurting himself at Birmingham, Leicester embarked on a sequence of seven successive defeats. With Mo Ballard dislocating his jaw in the same match and subsequent injuries afflicting Gene Waldron and Justin Phoenix, the Leicester coach, Bob Donewald, did well to field a squad. "Take four starters out of any team in this league and see how well they do," he said after Leicester's 91-81 win in the National Sports Centre had put them within sight again of a place in the Budweiser League playoffs.

"Leon's still a bit sore but he is obviously back in his old self," Donewald enthused.

"But it has been a bit of a nightmare. With everyone but we have only had two practices as a unit and I didn't really think we could sustain a road game like this."

It certainly looked that way in the first quarter when a McGee three-pointer was the only interruption to a Palace run of 13 points, inspired by Paul Grant, that swept his

Results and table 35

team into a narrow interval lead of 44-38. Soon after the resumption, Leicester, helped by Phoenix and Nate Reinking (who each finished with 15 points) and Andy Betts (14) and lamentable Palace shooting produced their own surge of 19-4. From that, there was no way back for Palace whose coach, Alton Byrd, commented briefly: "We had a period of time where offensively we couldn't execute." About

the only bright spot for Byrd was the form of Solomon Ayinla, whose 25 points kept Palace in the game.

Elsewhere, Paul Depisch hit five three-pointers among his 21 points to help the champions, London Towers, win 101-88 at Newcastle Eagles. Only when the game was won and lost did Michael Newman manage to penetrate at close quarters for the Eagles. Emerging from a first half that yielded only four points, the American centre eventually finished as the game's top-scorer with 23.

Tim Lascelles also ranted up 21 points but his tally came from seven three-pointers for Derby Storm, 104-92 winners over Thames Valley Tigers. Worthing Bears looked like becoming the first team this season to lose to Hemel Hempstead Royals when they trailed 14-2 but the American, James Hamilton, returning after spraining his left ankle, sank 44 points in Worthing's 110-84 victory — the best individual tally of the season.

CYCLING

Clarke makes most of warm-up chance

By PETER BRYAN

WHILE most of the country's leading cycle-cross riders chose to avoid a clash with their likely rivals in the British championship, which will be held at Sutton Coldfield next Sunday, Nick Craig, the title-holder, was nursing a severe cold at his home in Stockport that has kept him out of competition for the past fortnight.

"I had planned to ride two races this weekend in preparation for the national," he said yesterday, "but the cold has persisted and now gone to my chest. It's not looking good at all as far as I'm concerned for the championship race."

That may turn out to be good news for Barrie Clarke, the rider who is in the best form at present and who finished second to Craig in an exciting finish to last year's championship. He is thirsting for revenge.

Clarke and Richard Allaway, spiritedly gearing up

their training before their encounter in the national championship, agreed to make yesterday's Crabwood 16 miles event a handicap race "to make it more interesting" and started 2½ minutes after the main field of 60.

The Southampton circuit was rock hard and the temperature resolutely refused to move above freezing but neither appeared to bother Clarke, who caught the leaders at the end of the sixth lap and powered into the lead and won with 70 seconds to spare from Welsh-born Jamie Norfolk.

Rob Hurd, an early leader, managed a place on the podium by crossing the line third, 1min 25sec down on Clarke. "It was just what I wanted today," Clarke said, after his victory, "a good work-out and an untrodden run before the championship."

Results, page 35

ICE SKATING

Gooch slips into winning role

By JOHN HENNESSY

THE four skaters in the final had peeled off 23 of the 27 laps before the race sprang to life. The tactics seemed to favour Jasper, whose strength lies in the shorter distances, but, try as he might, he could not nullify the advantage that Gooch had stolen.

There was about two metres between them at the finish. "It was tough," Gooch said, "but I always felt I had it under control." It did not look quite that way.

Earlier Gooch and Jasper had finished first and second respectively in the 1,500 metres and also the 500 metres, for all Gooch's preference for the longer distances.

Then Gooch threw the title wide open by a fall in the 1,000 metres with three laps to go. He was left to trundle home in fourth place, bringing him level with Jasper on 11 points

with only that 3,000 metres left. Gooch, apparently, had lost his edge completely, without any contact with other skaters, because of a loose nut in one boot.

The manuring of Lindsay is regarded by the National Ice Skating Association as an important development. Not only does her arrival provide Palmer with the spur of competition she needs — "It's been difficult without it," she admits — but at a time when the sport is a bid for all the television exposure it can get, Lindsay, who is nothing if not photogenic, is an obvious draw card, and more of the same type of national exposure can be expected.

Gooch yesterday also won the British outdoor championship on Whitlesey, Wash, Peterborough, covering the 1½ mile course in 4min 26sec to take the King Edward VII Cup. Jonathan Cave, of Newborough, was second and Rob Mitchell, from Peterborough, third.

TENNIS

Henman on course for a happy new year

By ALIX RAMSEY

TIM HENMAN achieved his first goal of the new year when he reached an ATP Tour final for the first time on Saturday, but he could not quite manage to go one better and win the event, succumbing 7-5, 6-7, 6-2 to Jim Courier in the final of the Qatar Open in Doha yesterday.

To put Henman's achievement into perspective, Courier, with four grand-slam singles titles to his name, represented Henman's first serious challenge of the week.

To set up the meeting with the former world No 1, Henman had only to see off Tamariz at Savoy, who may be Egypt's top player but hardly

against Arazzi, he showed that he had learnt from his mistakes and was ready to take his place against Courier.

"A lot of people will see it as the breaking of a jinx," Henman said. "Certainly I have learnt from the past and reaching my first final is the reward for that. My ambition at the start of this year was to reach a tour final and I'm delighted to have done that so quickly in the new year. I sensed it was a real opportunity against Arazzi and I am happy I took the chance."

Courier is a far tougher nut to crack, though. By the end of last year, he had dropped out of the top 25 for the first time in eight years and he is determined to force his way back up the ladder. Once Courier sets his mind to something, nothing will distract him. Not the most talkative of souls, he allows his racket and the occasional scowl to get his message across.

Yesterday he had to work to gain the advantage, trading breaks of service with Henman at the start of the first set before winning it 7-5. The two men had never met before in competition but they have practised together a few times.

Henman's plan was simple: to outlast Courier. He knew he was never going to beat him in a straight set, he aimed to drill the ball past him as hard and as fast as possible. Subtlety is not one of Courier's strong suits.

However, if there is one thing that has set Henman apart from his predecessors as the torch-bearer of British hopes, it is his will power. He



A rejuvenated Courier shows off the spoils of his victory over Henman in the final of the Qatar Open yesterday

may win, he may lose, but either way he is not fazed by the situation. "I try to be in control of my emotions on court because that's when I play at my best," he said. But after outwitting Courier in the second-set tie-break, which he won 7-5, Henman relaxed for a moment and that was all the American needed to take charge of the match.

No matter. Henman has taken a big step in the last seven days. His hopes for the

new year had been to reach that first final, work on his physical strength and improve his ranking. The latter is guaranteed—he will move up a few places from his present position of 29 when the rankings are announced this morning. As for the rest, Henman is already ahead of schedule as he makes his way to Melbourne for the first grand-slam event of the year.

"On the positive side, I am playing better and better," he

said. "I've had a great week and it's given me lots of confidence for the Australian Open. The way I played instilled more belief that I can become a good player and I can have good weeks on and off the court, there is no reason why I can't beat a couple of top players."

The coming 12 months will be a much sterner test of Henman's capabilities than the heady days of 1996. His opponents now know what

they are up against when they see his name on the draw-sheet and Henman must repeat his feats of last year and do better if he is to continue his rise up the rankings.

Like Courier, he is eager to move up, although he is too well-mannered to grumble and growl as he does it. Nevertheless, the determination is there and Henman's performance in Doha has provided an eloquent statement of intent for 1997.

MOTOR RACING

Williams says he will attend trial over Senna

By OLIVER HOLT

FRANK WILLIAMS last night spoke for the first time about the worries surrounding his impending trial for manslaughter after the death of Ayrton Senna, the Formula One motor racing world champion, and his eagerness to appear in an Italian court in person to clear his name.

The Williams team owner revealed that he and the other two members of his team who had charges brought against them last month — Patrick Head, his technical director, and Adrian Newey, his chief designer — will waive their right not to attend the trial next month, and travel to Imola.

The trial is due to begin on February 20, at a small courtroom normally used for handing out speeding fines, more than 33 months after Senna's Williams-Renault crashed into a concrete wall at the Tamborello corner during the San Marino Grand Prix. The report into his death is thought to blame the accident on the failure of a weld on the car's steering column, a charge that Williams disputes.

"It is inevitable that I will go," Williams said at the announcement of a new sponsorship deal with the City firm, Henderson Investors, in London. "Why would I not go? I know one is not obliged to but I think it is correct that I should go to represent the company. It is my job. At least in the early stages, I expect that Patrick and Adrian will be there, too, but I think it could go on for quite some time."

"It has been hanging around for more than 30 months now so there is an element of relief that the thing is finally starting. It has been a worry but not really a strain. A death has to be investigated in Italy and nothing is above the

law, and I am participating very willingly in the investigation. There is, though, a great deal about the report and the way it occurred that bothers us."

Williams is also facing the possibility of a court case to resolve a contractual dispute with Newey, who is being wooed by McLaren. He admitted that the team's off-track troubles would make it more difficult for it to maintain its recent dominance in the sport in the coming season. If the verdict went the wrong way, he said, it would have a



Williams: worries

negative effect on the team. "It is a logical thing to say that a negative outcome would not be good for the team," he said. "It would be about reputation more than anything else. The wrong verdict would be a stigma over the company. While motor racing people may consider it a racing accident no matter what the verdict, 95 per cent of people outside motor racing would look at it and think 'that's bad'. It all just makes the challenge for the team all the greater next season."

Winning Formula, page 33

HOCKEY

Late surge earns title for Scottish champions

By SYDNEY FRANKLIN

MURRAY International Metals (MIM), the Scottish champions, reaffirmed their indoor skills by winning the D12 Midlands international tournament at Kidderminster yesterday. They beat Canberra, the Australian side, 3-6 in the final.

Most of the drama was packed into the second half, with MIM gaining the upper hand from a profusion of corners. In a tight finish, they scored twice to frustrate Canberra who had levelled the score at 6-6 with four minutes left.

MIM, from Edinburgh, scraped through their semi-final against Old Loughtonians, the English champions, 4-3. Their 3-1 lead was cancelled out by goals from corners by Thompson and Lee, but a minute Chowdhury won the match for MIM from open play.

In the other semi-final, Canberra had fared impressively against Victoria and came back from 3-0 down to win 8-6 with late goals by Barrett and McLennan. Canberra were superior individually and fitter, but the tactical plays of Vienna kept them in the game.

Canberra were in the same predicament against MIM, who quickly established a 3-0 lead. Canberra fought back gallantly to lead 4-3 after missing a penalty stroke, but found MIM a different proposition. In the battle for supremacy at corners, three were converted by MIM, with Smyth hitting the target twice, and he scored a third goal from open play.

For Canberra, Barrett and Bott scored from open play. They were disappointed, but, from the way that they played, they dispelled any notion that Australians do not take indoor hockey seriously.

Old Loughtonians failed to salvage something from the tournament by losing 5-4 to Vienna, in the play-off for third place.

Hector revived Old Loughtonians' hopes by levelling the score at 4-4 from a corner, but Grassberger scored the winning goal in the dying seconds. He had scored twice earlier.

Photograph, page 35

SNOOKER: OPENING SESSION IN BIRMINGHAM FINAL UNDERLINES THAT O'SULLIVAN STILL HAS A BIG GAP TO BRIDGE

Hendry's excellence puts him in pole position

By PHIL YATES

SINCE 1990, when Stephen Hendry replaced Steve Davis as the world No 1 and champion, he has successfully identified, then repelled, any potential challengers to his continued supremacy. It was in that regard that Hendry embarked on a mission yesterday.

In establishing a 6-2 lead over Ronnie O'Sullivan in the final of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge at Birmingham, Hendry did considerably more than move to within three frames of the £30,000 first prize and the title of his career.

By winning the Asian Classic and beating Hendry 5-2 on the way to

success at the German Open last month, O'Sullivan has re-emerged as the most likely candidate to loosen Hendry's grip on the game's leading prizes.

"At this point I'd have to agree that Ronnie has taken over from John (Higgins) as my main threat," Hendry said, after defeating Alan McManus 6-5 in an enthralling, high-quality semi-final on Saturday evening.

"Ronnie's been in the wilderness for a couple of seasons but now he's back as a force again."

While that may indeed be true, Hendry's excellence during yesterday's first session underlined the fact that O'Sullivan still has a gap to

bridge, both in terms of application and consistency, before his claim to be the best can be ratified.

Hendry, who compiled three century breaks against McManus, carried his record total for the event to seven with runs of 110 in the opening frame, 129 in the third and 136, his third total clearance of the week, in the seventh.

The Scot, who has now constructed 367 century breaks in professional competition, also put together contributions of 44 and 97 but O'Sullivan's most painful reverse arrived in a frame during which Hendry failed to compile a break of any great significance.

In the fourth, Hendry led 5-0

when O'Sullivan replied with 46, only to miss a fairly simple brown to a middle pocket after being poised to fashion a decisive clearance. The mistake made the difference between 3-1 and 4-0 for Hendry, who subsequently potted brown and blue to forge on.

O'Sullivan was left with the unenviable task of requiring seven of the remaining nine frames in order to win the tournament for the second year in succession while Hendry looked an overwhelming favourite to secure a £100,000 donation for his charity, the National Playbus Association.

Ironically, Hendry's performance gave O'Sullivan's pre-match com-

ments a prophetic ring. "Stephen likes people coming along to push him. He enjoys the challenge of having someone snapping at his heels," he said, after a 6-1 semi-final dismissal of Peter Ebdon, who himself had high hopes of winning this event.

"Stephen realises that he's got to play well to beat me and knowing the way he ticks, that is precisely how he wants it."

"It's all a matter of motivation with him and in some respects what I've done over the past few months has done Stephen a favour. Mind you, if I play my best, I expect to beat him."

Frame scores (Hendry first): 110-28, 55-31, 129-0, 87-46, 10-107, 129-4, 136-0, 25-66

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

League newcomers end Elway's dream

By OLIVER HOLT

THE Jacksonville Jaguars, a team that played their first game just 16 months ago, produced one of the biggest upsets of recent National Football League (NFL) history on Sunday when they beat this season's best team, Denver Broncos, in Colorado, to move within one victory of an appearance in the Super Bowl.

The Jaguars fought back from a 12-0 first-quarter deficit to sneak past the Broncos 30-27, despite a desperate late drive from the Denver quarterback, John Elway. Jacksonville's win destroyed Elway's best chance of capping his decorated career with a win in the Super Bowl after coming close so many times before.

Denver finished the regular season with a record of 13 wins and three defeats while Jacksonville had to win their last five games just to grab the last wild-card play-off berth. But last week, they beat Buffalo Bills at Rich Stadium and on Saturday they went one better. Only the winner of last night's game between Pittsburgh Steelers and New England Patriots stands between them and a trip to New Orleans on January 26.

The Jaguars, a collection of cast-offs, has-beens and poorly-raised NFL newcomers, were inspired by two touch-down passes from their quarterback, Mark Brunell, and the rushing of their running back, Natrone Means, who also scored a touch-down.

Jacksonville had extended their lead to 30-20 early in the fourth quarter when Elway, one of the greatest comeback

quarterbacks in the league, tried to rally the Broncos. He orchestrated a field-long drive to bring them to within three points of their opponents but the Jaguars kept possession late in the game to stifle any other opportunities. "We should have put them away in the first half," Elway said.

In Saturday's other game, San Francisco 49ers were soundly beaten by Green Bay Packers on a cold, wet and windy day at Lambeau Field in Wisconsin. Playing most of the game without their quarterback, Steve Young, who had badly bruised ribs, the 49ers had no answer to the passing of Brett Favre or the Green Bay running game.

Edgar Bennett and Desmond Howard returned a punt 71 yards as the Packers routed the 49ers 35-14. They have now won 17 consecutive games at Lambeau Field and 27 of their last 28 matches there. They will play the winner of last night's match between Carolina Panthers and the reigning champions, Dallas Cowboys, next weekend for a place in the Super Bowl.

The Cowboys have knocked the Packers out of the play-offs in each of the last three seasons but they have always had home-field advantage and have never had to venture into northern Wisconsin at the height of winter.

If they get past Carolina, that is what will face them and the Packers fans were baying for the chance of revenge in the later stages of Saturday's game.

SKIING: SWISS CLAIMS PLACE BESIDE STENMARK ON ROLL OF HONOUR

Von Gruenigen trounces opposition

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

MICHAEL Von Gruenigen, of Switzerland, surprised even himself yesterday when he won a men's World Cup giant slalom at Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, by the unexpected margin of 1.64sec.

Von Gruenigen, the World Cup holder in the discipline, produced two near-perfect runs on the demanding Podkoren piste for a total time of 2min 13.42sec. It was his second triumph of the season.

His usual smooth and elegant style left Siegfried Voglreiter, of Austria, distant second in 2min 15.06sec, with Kjell-Andre Amundt, of Norway, third in 2min 15.78sec.

"I am amazed at how strong I was today," Von Gruenigen said. "I was not expecting to win by such a big margin. It is a very difficult and bumpy hill, but such conditions have always favoured me."

"One of my goals has always been to win on all the classic giant slalom slopes. Now I have completed this list with my victory here and at Alta Badia [in December]. If you look at the golden book of ski racing, then you can see that all the big names — such as [Ingemar] Stenmark — have won here in Kranjska

Gora. I am very proud to have my name on this list."

Last winter, Von Gruenigen, 27, who now has nine World Cup victories, won the classic giant slalom at Adelboden, Switzerland, on his way to his maiden World Cup title in the event.

"My goals are to defend my [World Cup] giant slalom title and take a medal at the world championships [in Sestriere, next month]," Von Gruenigen, who won giant slalom and slalom bronze medals at the world championships in Sierra Nevada last year, said.

Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, increased her lead in the overall World Cup competition by winning a women's slalom in Maribor, Slovenia, yesterday.

Wiberg, who was fastest on the first run, was not put off by deteriorating conditions and clocked the best aggregate time of 1min 44.55sec.

Urška Hrovat delivered home crowds in Slovenia's second largest city with second place in 1min 45.32sec. Lara Magoni, of Italy, improved from seventh place after the first run to finish third with 1min 46.46sec, her best World Cup performance.



Von Gruenigen speeds to victory in Slovenia yesterday

Results, page 35

BOWLS: PRICE TRENDS WELL WORN TRAIL INTO LAST FOUR OF WELSH INDOOR TITLE

Trousdale's smash-and-grab tactics fail

THE IDEA that bowls is a gentle game was hit firmly on the head on Friday at Cardiff, when a jack was smashed in the quarter-finals of the CIS (Insurance) Welsh indoor singles championship (David Rhys Jones writes).

The culprit was Rodney Trousdale, a 29-year-old crown green bowler from Ellesmere Port, who has turned his attention to the flat green game during the winter months, when he travels

across Offa's Dyke several times a week to play at the Ffrith Stadium in Prestatyn.

The incident, which left two halves of the jack several feet apart on the rink, came towards the end of a match in which Trousdale was beaten, 21-11, by John Price, who is hoping to win the national title for the fifth time in succession and for the ninth time in 17 years.

John was getting on top, so I was forced into playing

attacking bowls," Trousdale said. "I was spot-on target but I didn't think I had put enough force behind it to do that sort of damage."

The little white ball was duly replaced and the end replayed in the same direction; but Trousdale's aggression failed to disturb Price, who went on to clinch his place in next week's semi-finals at Llanelli.

In the semi-finals, which will be televised by BBC-

Wales, Price will play Gareth Williams, 23, the Welsh junior captain and the Welsh Champions All-ride-holder.

Williams broke a 15-15 deadlock to beat Earlwood's Keith Wilkins, 21-15, scoring a full house to win on the 25th end. Earlier, he had scored a four on the 8th, and a three on the 14th. Robert Weale, who plays for Radnorshire in Llandrindod Wells, meets John Downey, from Merthyr Tydfil, in the other semi-final.

SQUASH

Egyptians lead race for youth honours

By COLIN MCQUELLAN

IF THERE is to be a home success from the boys' events in the Commercial Union British junior open squash championships in Sheffield, it will have to come in the face of overwhelming opposition from Egypt.

Three Egyptians reached the under-19 semi-finals, along with John Russell, of Kent, while James Willstrop, from Yorkshire, also faces an Egyptian in the under-14 final today.

Shahid Zaman, from Pakistan, a nephew of the former world No 2, Qamar Zaman, and Spain's Alberto Manso will play today's under-16 final after resisting fierce Egyptian semi-final challenges yesterday.

Willstrop, 13, defeated Moustafa Essam, from Egypt, 9-4, 9-2 in just 24 minutes yesterday. Today he meets the smallest 13-year-old in the field, Yasser El Halaby, who ran with astonishing speed and durability for 37 minutes to defeat Clinton Gallard, of Kent, 9-2, 7-9, 9-0, 9-1.

The Egyptian development has been triggered by the recent success of Ahmed Barada at junior and senior levels. Government money and private sponsorship has poured into the game to finance a clutch of international tournaments and a host of youngsters fascinated by the idea of emulating Barada.

The girls' quarter-finals yesterday produced one under-14 victory for Egypt through the 9-5, 9-5, 10-8 win of Omneya Ali Abdel Kawi over Tina Rix, of Hampshire, and a near miss when Engy Kheirallah went down to Dominique Lloyd-Walter of Kent, 9-4, 4-9, 9-5, 9-7.

Russell, a thorn in Egyptian players' sides during the world junior championships in Cairo last year, started in Sheffield by defeating Mohammed Diaa, from Egypt. He then defeated Tino Casas, of Spain, Old Tuominen, of Finland, and Yorkshire's Adam Stevenson to reach the under-19 semi-final last night against Amr Shabana, from Egypt.

Another Egyptian is certain to reach today's under-19 final when the top-seeded world junior champion, Admed Faizy, faces Karim El Mistakaw.

Lessons from Zimbabwe must be learnt if reputations are to be salvaged on second leg of tour

Sorry England require more than fighting talk

By SIMON WILDE

BEFORE leaving Harare for Auckland and the second leg of England's winter tour, to New Zealand, David Lloyd and Michael Atherton were putting as brave a face as they could on the outcome of the first leg, in Zimbabwe. However, a summary of the results there tells its own shocking tale: played ten, won two, lost five, drawn two, with one match abandoned.

Rather than disclose how much these results differed from expectations, coach and captain preferred on Saturday to look forward to the different conditions and challenges awaiting them in New Zealand. They insisted that morale remained good within the team and that there was nothing for it but to get back down to work once their journey was complete. Asked whether he was still willing to lead a losing side, Atherton said that he did not see the point in giving up.

Underpinning their argument is the reasoning that, by sticking to what they are doing, things will somehow improve. They are going to keep telling their charges that they are still good players, that the media has been unduly harsh, that the opposition is no better than they are, and that everything will be all right on the night.

Men charged with running a sports team sometimes have little option but to massage the truth, but the question has to be asked: what earthly reason is there for believing that England will do any better in New Zealand than in Zimbabwe, let alone at home to Australia next summer? Whatever is being said, it is going to be hard for the players to pick themselves up from what must have been a disheartening six weeks in southern Africa.

The facts tell a brutal story. England played the full Zimbabwe side five times and did not win once — this same Zimbabwe who were beaten in ten of their first 20 Test matches, who had lost their ten previous one-day internationals against Test-playing nations, and who had never won a limited-overs series.

Now, after a 2-0 drubbing in the one-day internationals and two inconclusive Test matches (even if the visitors were one ball away from winning in Bulawayo), it is England who have lost their past 12 one-day matches against Test nations overseas, where they have won a one-day series in five years; England who have won only one Test series on tour in the past decade.

They last won a series against Australia in 1967, against Pakistan in 1982 and against West Indies in 1969. When will England first beat Zimbabwe, a country for which cricket has been revitalised after so many recent setbacks by the events of the past few weeks, and which may now continue to blossom as English cricket continues to wither on the vine?

There have, of course, been plusses. The return to form of Alec Stewart, the progress made by John Crawley, Darren Gough and Robert Croft, and to a lesser extent by Nasser Hussain and Nick Knight, are all causes for encouragement, and suggest that there is potentially the core of a good side for the next few years.

However, these players will not be tasting success regularly unless an all-rounder worth his salt is unearthed rapidly, as well as two or three bowlers of quality. Andy Caddick may yet have something to contribute in his native New Zealand, but the impression he made in the early days in Zimbabwe was so insipid that he was not chosen for any of the international fixtures, and despite bowling well at times, Alan Mullally did nothing to suggest that he has it in him to bowl out Test sides regularly.

The danger is that, by talking as they did, Lloyd and Atherton could be accused of complacency, a charge that was levelled even before the team left for Zimbabwe, having not touched bat or ball for two months and preferring to settle for a fitness and golfing get-together in Portugal.

While England were having nothing to do with the game, Zimbabwe played Test series in Sri Lanka and Pakistan and

girded their loins for the matches at home that they wanted to win above all others. When England possess such a large management team, why was no one sent to monitor Zimbabwe's progress? Why was it, too, that Atherton had to wait until the New Year's Day debacle at Harare Sports Club to learn that it is dangerous to leave 60 runs to score from the last ten overs of a one-day match — a bread and butter target on English pitches — in the conditions that prevail in Zimbabwe, when Lloyd was there with the Under-19 team only a year ago?

If anyone in the England camp harbours the comfortable thought that winning and losing is simply cyclical, he ought to remember that Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the new chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, does not hold with this view.

MacLaurin's arrival during the second Test in Harare, where England gave their worst batting performance of the tour to be dismissed for 150 on the first day, could not have been more timely, because he is already convinced that English cricket possesses deep-seated problems that must be solved if this multimillion-pound business is not to be placed in jeopardy.

MacLaurin understands that cricket is a market product, which is not to say that he is insensitive to the game as a game, but he knows that the bottom line is that few people are willing to back a failing product, as the recent withdrawal of Testis Bitter as sponsor of the national team testifies. Even as he starts to take soundings from the counties and other interested parties about what revival plan he should put forward in the next few months, he is reiterating that nothing must be allowed to harm the game's image.

Within this context, the England captain and coach represent the public face of the national game, and MacLaurin expects them to be approachable and enthusiastic at all times. Atherton's habit of being a reluctant interviewee does not sit happily with this brief, nor does Lloyd's often passionate, rather than pragmatic, view of events.

Surely the time must also end when anyone should attempt to qualify further England defeats in one-day internationals overseas by saying that they had not brought with them the best one-day players. England



The return to form of Stewart, left, and Gough's progress gave England reason to believe that they possess the core of a good side



New Zealand plan early strike

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN AUCKLAND

ENGLAND'S cricketers flew into New Zealand early this morning after a 30-hour flight from Harare for the second part of their winter tour. If they were seeking a safe port to hide from the gales of criticism, they encountered in Zimbabwe there was nothing to encourage them. "England", a Wellington newspaper trailed on its back page by way of welcome, "expect the worst".

That, sadly, is how England are now regarded in every cricket-playing country. In Australia there is disbelief that David Lloyd, the coach, can presume so much from such lack of achievement. In New Zealand they know and care so little about the touring party that a player-by-player guide in yesterday's national Sunday paper (briefed), it should be said, by Matthew Maynard, the Glamorgan captain, who is wintering here, referred to a Yorkshire bowler called Silverman.

New Zealand's two finest players of recent years have urged their successors to hit England hard, and hit them immediately. "New Zealand should not be worried about the England side," Martin

Crowe said. "We need to go into the series with a good game-plan, and stick to it." Sir Richard Hadlee was more explicit. "We have to nail these guys," he said.

"Very rarely do we go into a series as favourites," Hadlee said, "and this is a vital period for our game. We have enough talent to do it, and the players should now have enough belief. They must say, 'come on, England are here for the taking'. And boy, if we can't whip them now, then we have a lot of soul-searching left to do ourselves."

Of 26 previous series between the teams, New Zealand have won only two, and they lack players of the class

of Hadlee and Crowe. But they are good enough to have won a Test in Pakistan this winter. Under Steve Rixon, the former Australia Test player, they are reshaping their team.

Rixon, according to Hadlee, "is absolutely right in his approach. He can't be too fazed with what has gone on [with England]. His job clearly is to get the team to perform to the best of its ability." If ability is defined by the results the teams have achieved over the past year then they are well-matched: England won one Test out of nine, New Zealand one out of six.

Michael Atherton will play to a testimonial match for

Danny Morrison here tomorrow in an effort to find some batting form after managing only 196 runs in 13 innings in Zimbabwe. Dominic Cork, who missed the first leg of the winter tour because of domestic problems, might also play.

But first the Derbyshire all-rounder had to explain to Lloyd why he missed two fitness assessments in England over Christmas. On arriving here a few hours ahead of the main party, Cork said that there had been a breakdown in communications between him and England's fitness adviser, Dean Riddle. "I'm sorry to go, I'm physically fit and I can't wait to start playing," Cork said. "I'm clear in my mind that I'm ready to concentrate exclusively on cricket."



Cork was unmoved by this Maori welcome to Auckland

Letters, page 19

Glorious partnership fuelled by audacity

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN CAPE TOWN

NEWLANDS (fourth day of five): India, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 375 runs to beat South Africa

A REALLY memorable partnership between Sachin Tendulkar and Mohammad Azharuddin on Saturday afternoon, when that alone could have saved India, has kept the second Test match here alive. South Africa will still almost certainly win it, but it would be good to think that half the Tests to be played in 1997 will produce as worthwhile a game as this one.

With one day left, India, needing 427 to win, are 52 for three. Even with Tendulkar and Azharuddin yet to be got out, they will not make them of course. Targets as stiff as this are never reached in Test cricket. But if India were to get away with a draw, that alone will make the last day worth watching.

When South Africa thought it safe to declare their second innings ten minutes after tea yesterday, India were left to bat for 28 overs before the close, and in that time they lost Mongia, Ramani and David Underhill to something just about unplayable from Donald, and David, a batsman of delightful promise, to what

looked a pretty chancy decision. Indian commentators likened the weather here at the moment to Jaisalmer at its best and it is an excellent five-day pitch, so India can have no grievances on that account.

After 35 minutes' play on Saturday they were facing their second drubbing within a week. It seemed perfectly possible, indeed quite likely, that the match would be over that evening. Needing 329 even to save the follow-on, and with the ball moving around, they were 58 for five when Azharuddin joined Tendulkar. I am inclined to think that in the circumstances the partnership that followed was the most scintillating I have watched in 2,000 days, or a few more, of writing about Test cricket.

The setting too, was won-

derful, and to round it all off the great Nelson Mandela was among the 18,000 present, having asked to come along. "Sport," he once said, "has a role to play in uniting many countries of the world because it speaks a language and spreads ideals which reach circles beyond the reach of politicians."

Well, while adding 222 in 175 minutes and 40 overs, India's young captain and his more venerable predecessor played a game that has been beyond the reach of almost everyone who has ever batted. It was a kind of magic, the synchronisation of eye and wrist, informed in Tendulkar's case by a calculating cricket mind.

Azharuddin, whose 115 took him 109 balls, was on such a "high" and getting away with

such liberties that Tendulkar seemed unsure whether or not to counsel moderation. It is very rare to see two great players spreading their wings together in a Test match. It never happened, for example, with Compton and Hutton, or, on a less exalted plane with Gower and Botham. I saw Frank Worrell and Everton Weekes make 283 together in 3½ hours in the Trent Bridge Test of 1950, but the bowling then was less demanding and the situation much less critical than faced the two Indians now. In the end Azharuddin, still in a world of his own, ran himself out, and Tendulkar, with the last man in, fell to a stupendous one-handed catch on the square-leg boundary.

So Saturday was a great day's cricket. Even so, India's main aim yesterday had to be

dictated by their deficit of 170. It was to keep South Africa in the field for as long as they could with a holding operation. The way of doing that is by fitting in no more than 13 or at the most 14 overs in the hour (in theory 15 is the statutory requirement) and having your leg spinner. In this case Kumble, bowl into the rough outside the right-handed batsman's leg stump. If wickets fall, so much the better.

In the event, they now did, so that the time came yesterday afternoon when South Africa were casting vaguely anxious glances at the scoreboard. When Cronje was sixth out, the third wicket to fall in quite quick succession, they were still only 325 ahead and the pitch was little different from what it had been when Tendulkar and Azharuddin enjoyed themselves so much.

Kumble had to wait until his 61st over before taking his first wicket of the match; but from round the wicket, between lunch and Cronje's declaration, he bowled 10 overs for 38 runs and the wickets of Cullinan, bowled trying to improve, and Cronje, caught at short leg, Nothing much, though, and he and Pollock, by adding 101 together, gave South Africa all the runs and many more that they were likely to need.

Lara back on century duty

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

BRIAN LARA scored his first century on tour as West Indies beat Australia by seven wickets in a high-scoring limited-overs international in Brisbane yesterday.

Lara made a scintillating return to his dominating best in scoring 102 to steer West Indies to victory, with seven balls to spare, in their World Series encounter at the Gabba. Chasing Australia's imposing 281 for four in 50 overs, West Indies comfortably reached 284 for three on the strength of Lara's efforts and an equally impressive century from Carl Hooper.

Hooper, batting one place below his vice-captain at No 4, abandoned his early support-

ing role, once Lara was out, to take responsibility during the final overs. Fittingly, he hit the winning runs to finish unbeaten on 110.

After looking badly out of sorts for several weeks, Lara finally found his timing and placement in a purposeful innings that featured two sixes and eight fours. He and Hooper shared in a third-wicket partnership of 154 off only 167 balls.

The result proved particularly disappointing for Mark Waugh, the Australia opener, who matched Lara's achievement by scoring 102, before being run out. Stuart Law, the all-rounder, contributed a bold 93, joining with Waugh to

add 145 runs for the second wicket after Australia had won the toss in ideal batting conditions.

It was a highly impressive run chase by West Indies, who have reversed their fortunes after losing the opening two matches in this competition. Only New Zealand, who amassed 297 to beat England in Adelaide 14 years ago, have recorded a "higher" winning total batting second in a one-day international on Australian soil.

West Indies lead the triangular tournament with six points from three victories in five games. Australia, who have lost nine of their past 11 one-day internationals at home and abroad, have four points. Pakistan, who have played one game less than their rivals, are also on four points.

Pakistan, meanwhile, tuned up for their limited-overs international against Australia in Hobart on Tuesday with a hard-fought three-wicket win over Tasmania. The tourists reached their 226-run target with an over to spare. They appeared to be cruising at 161 for two but lost four wickets in 33 balls to slide to 178 for six before Mushtaq Ahmed, the leg-spinner, guided them home with 15 not out.

SCOREBOARD FROM CAPE TOWN

SOUTH AFRICA First Innings: 529 for 7 dec 16-0 M Morkel 103 not out, G Kirsten 103, L Morkel 102 not out, D Cullinan 77		10-3 38-1 Kumble 25-5-58-2, Prasad 7-1-16-0, Ganguly 2-0-5-0, Ramani 10-0-45-0	
Second Innings: A C Hudson b Sivath 55 S C Ganguly b M Morkel b Donald 23 R N V Prasad b Adams 16 V V S Laxman b Richardson b Pollock 5 M Aggarwal run out 115 R S Mendis b Adams 11 A Kumble b Richardson b Donald 2 S Smith b Pollock 11 G Kirsten b Adams 2 Extras (b 5, lb 12, w 1) 17 Total (6 wickets dec) 256		INDIA First Innings: W R Ramani run out 55 S C Ganguly b M Morkel b Donald 23 R N V Prasad b Adams 16 V V S Laxman b Richardson b Pollock 5 M Aggarwal run out 115 R S Mendis b Adams 11 A Kumble b Richardson b Donald 2 S Smith b Pollock 11 G Kirsten b Adams 2 Extras (b 5, lb 12, w 1) 17 Total 256	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-42, 2-7, 3-33, 4-127, 5-133, 6-155		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-24, 3-25, 4-33, 5-58, 6-380, 7-358, 8-318, 9-340	
BOWLING: Sivath 18-5-78-3, Ganguly 10-0-45-0		BOWLING: Donald 24-4-99-2, Pollock 22-2-76-2, Kumble 12-1-88-1, Adams 18-6-49-2, Morkel 6-2-42-1, Cronje 9-5-16-0	

SCOREBOARD FROM BRISBANE

AUSTRALIA M E Waugh run out 102 M A Taylor c Murray b Morkel 26 G Law c Lara b Pollock 93 S R Waugh run out 34 M E Seaman not out 18 G S Stewart not out 18 Extras (b 7, w 3, lb 8) 18 Total (4 wickets, 50 overs) 281		WEST INDIES S L Campbell c Healy b Bichel 6 T J M Murray c Moody b Stuart 21	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-45, 3-159, 4-284		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-57, 2-202, 3-227, 4-281	
BOWLING: Bishop 10-2-31-1, Walsh 9-0-50-0, Ambrose 9-0-33-0, Morkel 6-0-23-1, Charlesworth 2-0-16-0, Hooper 7-0-52-0, Adams 4-1-8-1		Man of the match: C L Hooper	
Umpires: P D Parry and S G Randell		Series standings:	
West Indies 6		Pakistan 3	
Australia 2		New Zealand 2	

Oliver Holt begins a series on the fallen Formula One giants emerging from hibernation

Benetton set out to regain place in the sun



Formula One motor racing has fewer new regulations to cope with next season than in past times, but it does have a new lore. The living legend of Michael Schumacher preoccupies every team owner with pretensions to success. Flavio Briatore, the man who once owned the golden child, can read the runes more accurately than most. Briatore, the managing director, sits behind his desk in his office at the Benetton factory in Enstone, Oxfordshire, bathed in a half-light cast by the dark wood panelling that lines the room, staring out at the falling snow. "There is nobody out there like Schumacher," he says. "If you want to beat him, just make sure your car is a second quicker than the Ferrari. That is the only way."

That is the task. That is the bottom line. The duels that will take place on circuits from South America to Suzuka between early March and late October will play a part in the destiny of the drivers' and constructors' titles, but since everyone knows that nobody is Schumacher's equal, the crux lies in the equipment.

Although the first race, in Melbourne in early March, will be nerve-racking enough, the moment of truth is a lot closer. This is the week that team owners will begin baring their teeth in earnest, watching as Ferrari unveil their new car at their headquarters in Maranello tomorrow, and then TWR Arrows launch the vehicle to propel Damon Hill into the next phase of his career at the Motor Show in Birmingham on press day on Thursday.

Even allowing for the complex deceptions — the "sandbagging" — that can dominate winter testing, the destination of the championship will probably be painfully apparent long before the cars line up on the grid for the Australian Grand Prix. If the cars are not quick out of the box, the saying goes, they never will be quick.

For all its summer fancies, its jaunts to Monte Carlo and to Monza, grand prix racing is really



Briatore, the Benetton managing director, has his eyes on the prizes at the team's headquarters in Oxfordshire, where he says his charges have wintered well

'Since everybody knows that Schumacher has no equal as a driver, the crux lies in the equipment. That is the bottom line'

a winter's tale. In spring, its buds may wither on the branch; by summer, they have often fallen to the ground, rotting and yellowing. Now, in the months that straddle the end of the year, is the time when hope bursts into glorious technicolour in Formula One.

It is in full bloom at Enstone, at a team that learnt the hard way last year that if things are not right at the beginning of the season, there is little chance of putting them right during it, or at least not quickly enough to recover lost ground. "December, January and February," Briatore said. "They are the months you are not competing but you are preparing yourself for winning or losing."

Last season, Benetton could not cope with the loss of Schumacher and the process of adapting to two

new drivers, Gerhard Berger and Jean Alesi, who had different *modi operandi* to the young German. Mistakes were made, morale dropped. From taking the constructors' and drivers' championships in 1995, Benetton did not win a race last year.

At the end of the season, they seemed like a team under siege. Ross Brawn, their highly-rated technical director, defected to Ferrari and their designer, Rory Byrne, retired from the sport. There were even rumours, hotly denied by Benetton, that they were in financial trouble and were

trying to get rid of Alesi. The winter, though, has rejuvenated them. Alesi and Berger are optimistic, happy now in their changed environment after struggling to settle in. Promotions from within to fill the gaps left by Brawn and Byrne seem to have fostered an *esprit de corps* that was, untypically, missing last year. At

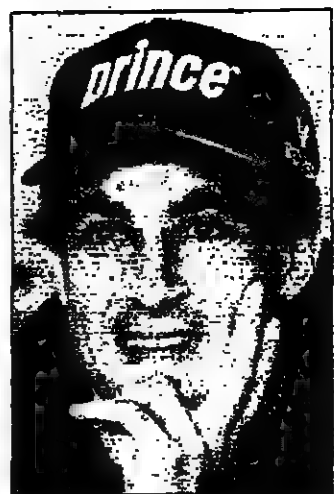
last, there is a pervading sense of a new beginning at Benetton.

"We reached the end of a cycle last season," Briatore said. "When one cycle is finished you need to embark on another. It is like coming to the end of a curve on a graph. We had great success with Ross, but you always need to recognise when one period is finished."

"Sometimes, you create a big name, someone who has big success, but then you have to have the nerve to change the name. Now there is a new challenge for Pat Symonds, Ross's replacement."

TOMORROW

Designs on success: why evolution not revolution is the way ahead for Benetton



Alesi: settled and optimistic

confident that the headstrong Frenchman will have matured enough in his attitude to put together a realistic attempt on the drivers' title.

"This is his last chance," Briatore said. "He has to show that he is not only talented but that he is a Formula One driver. He knows now that he has to spend more time with his engineers, involve himself deeper in the whole business of grand prix racing, and try to understand better what is going on. He needs to be part of the team, not something outside the team. This is what he was missing before and I need him to concentrate more on that."

"He changed from a very emotional situation to a very professional situation at the end of 1995 and it was too much for him to start with. When you change dramatically like that, it is like divorcing after many years and taking up with a new girlfriend. It can be a bit strange at first and you have to try to understand each other. Getting that right in the winter can be just as important as getting the car right and we did not have the time for either last year."

The rumours of financial problems, the suggestion that was floating around the sport several weeks ago that Benetton had missed out on significant bonus payments from sponsors because of their poor results, have disappeared, too, now that the season is drawing near.

"I like reading that kind of rubbish," Briatore said. "It is a good exercise for people who try to take money out of my pocket. But I know how much money I have in my pocket and I am happy."

Money in his pocket is one thing. Time up his sleeve after Ferrari run their new car will be a more priceless asset altogether.

SWIMMING

Klim steals the honours from Poll at World Cup

By OLIVER STAFF

CLAUDIA POLL Costa Rica's Olympic champion, won three gold medals but it was Michael Klim of Australia, who stole the show with four golds in the Epson World Cup short-course championships in Hong Kong yesterday. Klim, 19, added two gold medals to the pair he won on Saturday as the Australian men outmuscled the Chinese women and headed the medal standings with nine golds to China's seven.

Poll, the Olympic gold medal-winner in the women's 200 metres freestyle, yesterday won the women's 400 metres freestyle for her third gold medal of the meeting. She also collected silver in the 100 metres freestyle, losing out to Nian Yun of China. "I have not competed in the 100 freestyle for two years so I am happy with three gold medals and my times," Poll said.

Klim, a protégé of Gennady Turecki, the Russian who coached Alexander Popov, won the men's 200 metres freestyle and the 100 metres butterfly to complete a clean sweep of the events that he entered.

Mathew Dunn won the men's 200 metres individual medley and Adrian Radley's double in the 50 metres and 200 metres backstroke completed Australia's haul.

Adam Ruckwood, of Great Britain, came third behind Radley in the 200 metres, at which he is the Commonwealth champion, having also taken a bronze medal behind Radley in the 100 metres backstroke on Saturday.

Ian Wilson, who won bronze in the 400 metres freestyle on Saturday, followed up with third place in the 500 metres freestyle yesterday in 7min 54.76sec, 14 seconds adrift of Jorg Hoffmann, of Germany.

Results, page 35

Yates reeling in the years with search for printed perfection

Brian Clarke celebrates the launch of a magazine that breaks the angling mould

To say that Chris Yates lives in a dream world is true in every sense but the pejorative. In the mind of the average coarse angler he lives on Mount Olympus where still lakes slumber and clear streams wind and great fish are landed to an accompaniment of lures.

His reality is not so different. Home is a long, low cottage down Wessex way, where Hampshire and Wiltshire and Dorset meet. Sheep freckle the hill on the other side of the road. The best of the River Avon is a short cast distant. Hidden lakes can be reached with an overhead lob.

It is there that the most hallowed coarse angler in Britain, long-time holder of the carp record and barbel-catcher extraordinary, pursues his dream of the perfect life. The only things that matter to Yates are time with his family and time by the water. Money, which comes from what he can earn with his camera and his pen, scarcely counts beyond the needs of the given day.

Yates made his name by capturing a carp weighing 51lb from Redmire pool in Herefordshire, in 1980. Since then he has been both at the dead centre of angling and serenely outside it. He explores the high-tech, chest-beating route so much of angling has taken and gets his own fish in a studiously old-fashioned way. He has no electronic gizmos and no carbon-fibre what-nots. Yates uses hand-built, split cane rods and centrepin reels. His stock-in-trade is watercraft and a knowledge of the quarry. He has an instinctive sense of place and time and has created a lifestyle that allows him to act on it.

Most of Yates's non-fishing time in recent years has been devoted to writing *Three of the Sun*, *The Deepening Pool* and *The Secret Carp* — would find their way on to many an all-round angler's list of the finest fishing literature of this century.

Now, though, there is something else on the agenda. Yates

and his friends have long fantasised about the perfect fishing magazine. It would be a magazine reflecting the values of the Golden Scale Club, a group of 21 anglers to which they belong — "people who simply love angling, who reject the new earnestness and technology and who rejoice in the sport's freedom of spirit and traditions". Which is to say old-time, laid-back fun-fishing, some of it serious.

And so Yates has agreed to be co-editor of *Waterlog*, a new bi-monthly angling journal, the first issue of which has just reached the news stands. The magazine is being co-edited and managed by his friend, Jon Ward-Allen, who runs a small specialist publishing business, The Medlar Press. The address for subscription to *Waterlog* is The Grange, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 0DE.

Waterlog will pose no threat to the barons of the angling press — indeed, it is aimed at a niche that has been deliberately ignored. There were, at the last count, over 30 fishing journals and magazines, almost all of them of the hardcore "how-to-catch-more-and-bigger" kind. There is simply nowhere for the relaxed, literate, all-round angler to go.

Yates and Ward-Allen feel something for the angler who is simply in love with water and light and all things fishy and wants to read about them without being lectured. And so Yates now finds himself at the centre of a cottage industry, which is to say his own cottage. While the children are at school and his wife is painting, Yates is at his production line, the old desk in his stove-heated study. There is no fax, a telephone that lives in a wicker creak with a hat

over it to keep the noise down, a pile of paper and a fountain pen. Fishing tackle and old books are all around. Behind him, though, Yates has a deep knowledge of the past and much goodwill. Together, they have made the first edition of *Waterlog* a diverse and beautiful thing. Many famous writers, both past and present, are represented. Richard Walker, Bernard Venables, Maurice Ingham and "BB" are all there — every one a magical name for 50-somethings hankering after a golden age of angling that may or may not have been quite as remembered.

More recent names feature. Jeremy Paxman, Tom Fort and Peter Stone among them. Checkov and Chavov bob up and, given the liberties taken, might well be consulting celestial lawyers right now. There are stories of great fish, small fish, exotic fish, eels. There is much humour, some of it scatty. There is "Mrs Walton's Cookbook" and "A Scientist Writes" column (this issue — "Cyprinid Sensitivity to Wave-Emitting Aubergines"). There is an obituary slot where environmental tragedies and countryside losses are noted. It is an idiosyncratic and engaging mix, much as one might expect of a man who expresses his opinion of carbon-fibre rods by sticking them in the ground and growing beans up them.

The challenge is going to be to add a modicum of ballast to the coverage — the first edition, for all its merits, is a little light — to hold on to the 50-somethings and to find enough 20-somethings, 30-somethings and 40-somethings to attract sales. With *Waterlog*, Yates and his friends have embarked on a courageous experiment that deserves to succeed. In the glass bowl of the publishing world, all manner of fish will be waiting to see if it can. Among them, one suspects, will be the big fish, too.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.



Yates has a lifestyle that seems part of an angling idyll

NETBALL

Lottery puts England on secure footing

By LOUISE TAYLOR

WITH the England squad ranked in the world's top four, netball falls into the elite category eligible for the maximum grants available under the newly-established National Lottery Sports Fund.

Already the All-England Netball Association (AENA) has submitted its application for revenue awards for talented individuals and teams as it seeks to improve the country's world ranking and win medals in the world championship.

While individual wing attacks and goal shooters could qualify for subsistence grants of up to £28,000 each — thus enabling them to work part-time rather than full-time — the wider team aid would also allow for the employment of full-time coaches.

Fiona Murtagh, the England captain and a full-time personnel officer in London, said: "Full-time coaches will allow us to compete against Australia and New Zealand [the world's leading netball nations]. They have had full-time coaches for years and it shows: if England players and coaches didn't have to work full-time, it would be another very big incentive to really concentrate on netball. At the moment a lot of good players don't have enough time to work on their game."

Her sentiments are fully endorsed by Liz Nicholl, the chief executive of AENA, who said: "Our long-term goal is to win the 2003 world championships. The netball performance plan we have submitted to the National Lottery Sports Fund outlines the structures we need to put in place to achieve this, along with the procedures and time scale necessary for implementation. We now have a clear vision of the way forward."

Football floating into growth area

With a dozen football clubs on the stock market — and more on the way — the City has worked up to the investment potential in Britain's best loved game. This can be shown by the fact that West Bromwich Albion, one of the portfolio of great underachievers of Midlands football, enjoyed a threefold hike in its share price on its debut on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) on Friday. Now Coventry City is set to join the rush with a £30 million float.

An analysis of the best performing shares in the United Kingdom over 1996 reveals that football is bringing in the punters. Of the top ten companies showing the biggest gains in the year, three are sport related. Of the top 20, five have sports connections.

There is no surprise that Manchester United is in there. However, its startling rise — which saw the shares increase 241 per cent to 667.5p — only left it twelfth in the league.

Martin Edwards, United's chief executive, has been fitted as a leader in the game of football finance, as indeed he is. You cannot fault his decision to turn down a £300 million bid for the club in May when the market value is now £425 million.

Two other football stocks outperformed United. Shares in Celtic, which are traded on the AIM, rose 488 per cent to £385 during the year as investors realised that the company is now well run by Fergus McCann, who made his name selling tights. In the first two trading days of the new year Celtic put on another ten per cent, despite the team being beaten again by Rangers. It was the market's third best performer.

Just below, at seventh, came Caspian, which bought Leeds United for £16.5 million in a controversial deal in which Conrad, which later bought Sheffield United, offered £1.5 million more. At the time, this column said the deal was a steal, and so it has proven. Caspian shares have soared 338 per cent to 45p, despite Caspian's inability to score

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



with its ambitious deals to move into rugby league, ice hockey or basketball. What hope of a repeat performance when the chief executive, Chris Akers, describes Caspian as a "sports media" company and says his favourite team is Boca Juniors?

But the star performer has nothing to do with football — directly. It is Blacks Leisure, the company best known for its camping and hiking goods shops which branched out into the general sports area with the First Sport chain, to cash in on the fantastic growth of sports-related clothing, such as replica football strips and training shoes.

Also enjoying this market were JJB Sports and JD Sports, both strong performers, and Hay & Robertson, the owners of the former England strip-makers, Admiral. On the back of a deal to develop a Ruid Gullit clothing range, Hay's shares rose 201 per cent to 132.5p, the market's nineteenth best performer. But Blacks outstripped them all, scoring a fantastic 680 per cent gain to end the year at 386.5p.

However, as the market often proves, shares can go down as well as up. The worst performing share of all was also in the sports arena. It is called Clubpartners, an investment company set up to develop golf clubs. Having suffered a spectacular 91.9 per cent drop in its price to a mere 2.5p during 1996, shareholders' eyes lit up at the prospect of a takeover bid for the company. Alas, an announcement that the bid would value Clubpartners in the region of a penny a share ruined everyone's new year.

JASON NISSÉ

Prestigious international event opens a busy new year programme

Baricchi and Barry bid for glory

By RUTH GLEDHILL

IF ANYONE is ever to topple Marcus and Karen Hilton, of Rochdale, from their pinnacle as reigning, seven-times undefeated world professional ballroom champions, it will be Luca Baricchi and Lorraine Barry, from East Molesey, in Surrey. Baricchi and his feisty Irish-born partner, who has a reputation as one of the best women dancers ever, will be out to impress the judges at the first important international contest of the year, the Star Ball in London on Wednesday.

The Star Ball, organised by the Ballroom Dancers' Federation, has attracted couples from countries around the world, including from Japan, two from Denmark and one from Ukraine. Its importance lies in its prestige as one of the oldest dance championships in the world, and as the new year's debut competition.

Although the Hiltons will not be dancing at the Star, this contest will nevertheless be a guide to form for the United Kingdom Open championships at Bournemouth later this month, where the top two English couples will go on to represent their country at the world championships at Blackpool in November.

The Hiltons are dancing at the UK and Baricchi, who in previous competitions has been one mark short of taking the tango from the Hiltons, is hoping to build on inroads he has also made into their foxtro, waltz, quickstep and Viennese waltz.

But at the Star, Baricchi will be facing a strong challenge from England's third-ranked couple, Andrew Sinkinson and Adele Preston, who won the closed British championship last November. Baricchi, a tall, dark-haired, Italian, whose aloof demeanour and presence render him unmissable on the floor, is known for the quality of his tango, which has elements of the Argentinian style with swivels and plenty of "atmosphere". His foxtro is considered particularly strong.

Barry, whose younger sister, Michelle, is also a top amateur competitor, remained serenely confident about her chances this week. They had been practising hard, she said, and had the Hiltons in their sights, although the rivalry between the two couples is friendly.

"We are pretty confident of maintaining our position. If not bettering it, I wasn't, I might as well give up. I have got to convince myself and all those 11 judges." The judges will be chaired by Bob Burgess of Dulwich and include Richard Gleave, Peter Eggleton and Len Armstrong, all former champions.

Sinkinson, who once danced with Barry and who, with her, was for three years undefeated world and British amateur champion, partnered up with Preston more than 12 months ago after winning the Star in 1994 with another partner, Amanda Owen. On Wednesday, the stylish Owen will be aiming for a good result with her new partner, Tony Dokman.

The Star will be the first of a series of big championships this year, including the UK, where Sinkinson and Preston will not be looking back, but instead will throw down the gauntlet to those ahead of them.

"As a new partnership it takes time to find that blend with one another," Sinkinson, a flowing dancer who is known particularly for elegance of his foxtro and his innovative style across all five modern dances, said. "But steadily, we feel as though we have been experiencing a great deal of improvement. The other couples have had longer with each other, and have better communication."

High hopes have been expressed for him and Preston in the dance world but he remained cool. "I have been competing for 25 years, since I was eight years old, week in, week out. Therefore I don't really feel any kind of pressure. I know what I have to do."

The championship marks the competitive comeback of Norway's top couple, the stunning Kim and Cecilie Rygel. Kim was put out of action by a serious knee injury sustained during the International in London last October but after surgery has been demonstrating in Japan.

The absence of the Hiltons and at least two other top professional couples from the 36 entries in the professional, modern, or "standard" championship this year, leaves openings for rising challengers.



Baricchi, aloof, and his partner, Barry, said to be one of the finest women dancers ever

RFU advancing proposals for structural change

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY union has not been seen in the best of lights during its struggle to cope with the change from an amateur to an open game. Division and discord have choked the last year yet behind the public and sometimes unloved face of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), life goes on.

There are more than 2,000 clubs, more than 3,000 schools affiliated to the RFU and in the course of nearly two years' study, an RFU working party on youth rugby came across a tale to set against the posturing of many at the senior end of the game.

They interviewed a boy from a broken home who discovered mini-rugby at school: the game became a natural outlet, his skills developed and even though he later appended a large, comprehensive school where rugby was not played, he represented both his county and his country.

Though he dropped out for a period, his interest was rekindled during sixth-form education and he visited New Zealand with an England 18-group tour party where he roomed with a boy from a public school. The motivation he derived prompted him to take A levels externally and he is now at university. Robert Horner, who chaired the working party, said, "He freely admits that, had it not been for rugby, he might have found his way to jail instead."

The young man's message to the working party was simple: "There are lots of guys like me out there, go and get them." It is a message the RFU, like so many missionaries, is anxious to put across but the thrust of the working party's findings was of a game in sore need of rationalisation at junior level.

In particular, they found that the regime of co-ops rugby put in place a generation ago for teenagers who had left full-time education is no longer apposite. Clubs and schools have become rivals for the same players, more of whom remain at school rather than seeking jobs at 16 as they once did. This has provoked some thorny debate, various clubs having insisted that no modification is required.

The RFU, democratic to a fault, circulated revisions to their original recommendations and each of the 27 constituent bodies, the

counties, are due to report back by March 1. The authors of the report hope that it will have been implemented in full by 1998-9. "We were concerned at the demands imposed on the talented 16 to 19-year-olds," Horner said. One interviewee had played 87 games during his first year out of school, another had been selected for five representative teams in ten days. Boys are being pulled this way and that when they should be concentrating on honing the skills which, elsewhere in the world, take 20-year-olds straight into senior national XV's.

It was also apparent that the many clubs who took on the responsibility of offering rugby as a dried up in the state schools during the 1970s and 1980s were ill-equipped to do so.

The clubs are getting better at handling the task they took up," Horner said, "and the youth development officers (funded by local authorities and the RFU) welcome the challenge of contributing towards a national team of 18-year-olds which has not come through the schools." The RFU's answer is an administrative restructuring of the National Lottery and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, so that there will be a clear path for promising young players to follow.

The target will be a new level of England rugby: an under-19 XV (equivalent teams already exist in the other home unions and on the Continent) into which both national schools and national youth teams will feed — rather than, as happens now, England 18-group schoolboys funneling into the national co-ops teams.

The RFU seek a register of those involved in mini and mid-rugby (from seven years old and upwards), greater support for the Rugby Football Union for Women and greater liaison between clubs and schools.

This is the other side of the RFU's quest for more money which has brought down upon their heads the wrath of their colleagues in Scotland, Ireland and Wales. But the latest school-aid development is one which has aroused the admiration of other sporting bodies and which, for the good of the game at large, they must sustain.



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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

I like the paradox on this hand. If East decides to defend Six Hearts because he holds the king of that suit, to beat the contract he has to throw it away at trick two.

Dealer East	North-South game	Rubber bridge
♠A4 ♥A1032 ♦AKQ1068 ♣—	♠A4 ♥A1032 ♦AKQ1068 ♣—	♠A4 ♥A1032 ♦AKQ1068 ♣—

W	N	E	S
1S	2S	1C	Pass
Pass	5H	5H	5H

Contract: Six Hearts by South. Lead: king of spades

North's Two Spades showed a strong red two-suiter. As the auction went, it is close whether East should pass Six Hearts. When this hand came up at TGR's, East bid Seven Clubs over Six Hearts. That's a reasonable view — it looks as though he will go four off with 150 honours for a penalty of 550 to North-South. If North-South make Six Hearts a little over 40 per cent of the time, the sacrifice gains.

Say East decides to pass Six Hearts, as in the auction above, on the basis that the king of hearts is an almost certain trick, and there may well be another trick in the wash. Declarer wins the spade lead in dummy and lays down the ace of hearts. How should East defend? The danger is that declarer can get all his spades away on diamonds; if

East plays low on the ace of hearts, when he gets in with the king of hearts he won't have a spade to play. I think East should find the winning play — throwing his king of hearts under the ace, in the hope that his partner has the queen. There is little chance of breaking the contract if South has the queen.

Several current world champions are among the 16 pairs who will be playing in the Macallan International Pairs 1997 (January 22 to 24), at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1. You can watch at the tables or in the Viewgraph theatre. Information: 0181-878 5844.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

VALANCE

- a. Bravery
- b. A cavalry spear
- c. A drupe

WEANIE

- a. A baby
- b. The little finger
- c. None

WORT

- a. Grain sauce
- b. To grumble
- c. The sap of the oak

VUM

- a. A handguard
- b. To loiter suspiciously
- c. To swear

Answers on page 40

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Hebden leads

With one round to go in the Hastings Premier tournament, the UK's strongest international chess competition, the lead has been seized in dramatic fashion by grandmaster Mark Hebden, who topped the previous front-runner, grandmaster John Nunn, in the eighth round. Hebden gradually outplayed Nunn, won a pawn and forced resignation on the 38th move.

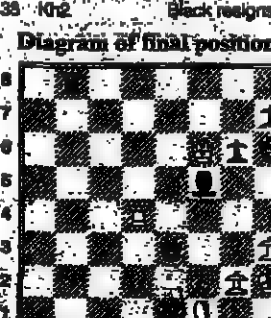
White: Mark Hebden
Black: John Nunn

Hastings, January 1997

Queen's Pawn Opening

1 d4	Nf6
2 Nc3	g6
3 Nd3	g7
4 Bf4	g6
5 e3	g6
6 Be2	c5
7 Ne5	Ng6
8 O-O	Ng6
9 exd4	Ng6
10 Nxd3	Ng6
11 Nxd3	Ng6
12 c3	Ng6
13 B4	Ng6
14 Qd2	Ng6
15 Bb2	Ng6
16 Qd2	Ng6
17 Bf1	Ng6
18 dxe5	Ng6
19 Qd2	Ng6
20 Bf1	Ng6
21 Qd4	Ng6
22 Qd4	Ng6
23 Bf1	Ng6
24 Nc5	Ng6
25 a3	Ng6
26 N4	Ng6
27 Nxd7	Ng6
28 Nf5	Ng6
29 Bf5	Ng6
30 Rf5	Ng6
31 Bf5	Ng6
32 Bf1	Ng6
33 Qd4	Ng6

Diagram of final position



Scores at Hastings with one round to go are: Hebden 6; Nunn 5; Rozentalis 5; Lalic and Movsesian 4; Adams and Xie Jun 3; Conquest 3; Motwani 2; Fear 2.

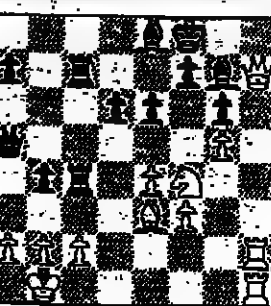
Chess for charity

The simultaneous display, whereby a master or grandmaster takes on numerous opponents at one and the same time is a powerful tool for raising funds for charitable purposes. On Saturday March 22, I will take on all-comers in a simultaneous, to take place in the boardroom of St George's Hospital, Tooting, London SW17. The goal is to raise funds for the St George's Hospital Hold My Hand appeal, which aims to raise £1 million for their Children's Intensive Care Unit. Details and entry forms are available from Lucy de Ville. The Appeal Office, St George's Hospital (tel: 0181-725 5096).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Rigo — Sipi, Hungary 1967. Here the two players are attacking on opposite sides of the board, but White's attack is the more relevant as he has already broken through to Black's king. How did he now finish off?



Solution on page 40

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THE TIMES

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To coincide with the launch of our Discovery Diet Guide, which starts today on pages 10 to 13, *The Times* has teamed up with LivingWell and other leading health clubs to offer you up to six free visits to any of the 110 participating clubs listed right.

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There is £40,000 of memberships to be won.

To take up this offer simply present the voucher, below right, at your chosen health club when you turn up for your pre-booked visit. By collecting all six vouchers appearing this week you can enjoy six free visits.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The offer is valid until February 28, 1997. 2. Your free visit(s) must be booked in advance by telephone quoting *The Times* offer. 3. The printed voucher(s) must be presented to the club when you make your visit(s). 4. Each voucher is only valid for one free visit. 5. A maximum of six free visits are allowed per reader. 6. No photocopies will be accepted. 7. The offer is subject to availability. 8. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. 9. There may be additional charges if you wish to book beauty treatments. 10. It is advisable to confirm what facilities are included in the offer at the time of booking.



GREATER LONDON

LONDON W1, LivingWell, 0171-636 1000; LivingWell, 0171-829 6974; The Fitness Exchange, 0171-436 9266 LONDON W2, Carlton, 0171-286 1965 LONDON E14, Arena Racquet & Sports, 0171-515 8940 LONDON SW1, LivingWell, 0171-233 3579 LONDON NW6, LivingWell, 0171-872 3232 LONDON NW8, The Circle, 0171-722 1234 LONDON SE1, Cottons, 0171-403 1171 LONDON SE26, Springdale Spa, 0181-778 9618 CROYDON, LivingWell, 0181-887 4444 ILFORD, Apples, 0181-518 0806 NORTHOLT, Dragons, 0181-841 5611 WATFORD, Sebastian Coe, 0181-420 5467 WEMBLEY, LivingWell, 0181-785 4118

SOUTH EAST

ARUNDEL, LivingWell, 01243 554693 BASINGSTOKE, LivingWell, 0800 136636 BASILDON, Club Kingswood, 01268 522954 COBHAM, LivingWell, 0800 136636 COPTHORNE, Copthorne The Club, 01342 716276 COPTHORNE, Effingham Park, 01342 714994 CRAWLEY, Sebastian Coe, 01293 561166 CAMBERLEY, Fitness First, 01276 68999 DARTFORD, LivingWell, 01322 290210 EAST GRINSTEAD, Sebastian Coe, 01342 410986 FARNHAM, Sebastian Coe, 01252 782345 GATWICK, LivingWell, 01293 527261 MAIDSTONE, LivingWell, 01622 734872; Marriott Tudor Park, 01622 734334; Sebastian Coe, 01622 631163 MALDON, Five Lakes Hotel Golf & Country, 01621 868888 MILTON KEYNES CENTRAL, LivingWell, 01908 688286 MILTON KEYNES, LivingWell, 01908 240422 NEWBURY, LivingWell, 0800 136636; LivingWell, 01635 247020; Sebastian Coe, 01488 658100 OLD WOKING, Chris Lane, 01483 722113 READING, Club Motivation, 01734 259988 ST ALBANS, Batchwood Golf & Tennis Centre, 01727 844250 SOUTHEAST ON SEA, Fitness First, 01702 390700 SLOUGH, Copthorne, 01753 516222 WATFORD, LivingWell, 01923 210247 WHITHAM, Sebastian Coe, 01378 516989 WOKINGHAM, LivingWell, 01734 785896

SOUTH WEST

BATH, LivingWell, 0800 136636 BOURNEMOUTH, Queens Park Health Club, 01202 394900; LivingWell, 01202 293222 BRISTOL, LivingWell, 01454 202506; LivingWell, 0800 136636 CHELTENHAM, Harpers, 01242 257595 DIDCOT, Harpers, 01235 819888 GLOUCESTER, Sebastian Coe, 01452 415242; Marriott Tewkesbury Park, 01684 297562 PORTSMOUTH, LivingWell, 0800 136636 SALISBURY, Harpers, 01722 339968 SOUTHAMPTON, LivingWell, 01703 766926 SWINDON, LivingWell, 01793 410937; Village, 01793 827777 WINCHESTER, Club Motivation, 01982 709988

MIDLANDS & EAST ANGLIA

BIRMINGHAM, LivingWell, 0121-235 7789; Fitness First, 0121-434 3737 BROMSGROVE, LivingWell, 0121-445 5125 CAMBRIDGE, Club Motivation, 01223 259988 CORBY, LivingWell, 01536 264568

COVENTRY, LivingWell, 01203 841019; Fitness First, 01203 893444

DAVENTRY, Harpers, 01327 871144 DUDLEY, Copthorne, 01384 482882 LEICESTER, LivingWell, 01162 814112 LOCKINGTON, LivingWell, 01509 674166 MERIDEN, Marriott Forest of Arden, 01676 526107 MORLEY, Marriott Breadsall Priory, 01332 836002 NORTHAMPTON, Fitness First, 01604 751170; LivingWell, 01604 702804 NORWICH, LivingWell, 01603 488470 RUSHDEN, Harpers, 01933 411635 STOKE-ON-TRENT, LivingWell, 01782 266717 SUTTON COLDFIELD, Sebastian Coe, 01213 131317 WARWICK, LivingWell, 01926 493700

NORTH EAST

GARFORTH, LivingWell, 0113-287 6444 GRIMSBY, Millfields, 01472 356088 HUDDERSFIELD LivingWell, 0800 136636 HARTLEPOOL Fitness First, 01429 232222 HULL Club Tamarisk, 01482 656488 LEEDS, LivingWell, 0113-244 5443; Sebastian Coe, 0113-287 5219; Marriott Leeds, 0113-236 6405 NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, LivingWell, 0191-230 2717; Copthorne, 0191-222 0333

NORTH WEST

BOLTON, Club Motivation, 01204 879988; Sebastian Coe, 01942 814973 CHESTER, Sebastian Coe, 01244 335135 HIGHER DISLEY, LivingWell, 01663 766931 LIVERPOOL, Woman's World (Ladies Only) 0151-521 8151 MANCHESTER, LivingWell, 0161-839 0606; Club Motivation, 01625 889988; Sebastian Coe, 0161-236 2674

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN, LivingWell, 01224 208867 AYR, Sebastian Coe, 01292 269331 DUNBLANE, LivingWell, 01786 821230 DUNDEE, LivingWell, 01382 226506 DUNKELD, LivingWell, 01350 727130 EAST KILBRIDE, LivingWell, 01355 238588 EDINBURGH, Club Motivation, 0131 535 9988 GLASGOW, LivingWell, 0141 248 9788; LivingWell, 0141 204 5512; Club Motivation, 0141 306 9988 GOUROCK, LivingWell, 01475 635588 INVERNESS, Sebastian Coe, 01463 235181 LIVINGSTON, LivingWell, 0800 136636

WALES

CARDIFF, Club Motivation, 01222 589988; Copthorne, 01222 599100 NEWPORT, LivingWell, 0800 136636; LivingWell, 01633 413840 SWANSEA, LivingWell, 0800 136636

NORTHERN IRELAND

LONDONDERRY, X Stress 01504 269298

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THE TIMES FREE HEALTH CLUB DAY MEMBERSHIP VOUCHER AND PRIZE DRAW ENTRY

This voucher entitles the bearer to a free day's membership at one of the health clubs listed in *The Times* on January 6 and 11, 1997. This voucher also acts as a prize draw entry coupon for the chance to win a free membership for a year to the winner's chosen health club. There are annual memberships worth a total of £40,000 to be won. The offer is valid until Friday February 28, 1997. This date is also the closing date for entry to the prize draw.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1 The offer is subject to availability. 2 Readers must book their visits in advance by telephone and state that they are using *The Times* offer. 3 This voucher must be presented when you turn up on the day. 4 The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. 5 There will be additional charges for therapies. Please check what is included in the offer at the time of booking.

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If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times* please tick ☐

CHANGING TIMES

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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REPORTING THIS WEEK

Anxious wait for festive figures



Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, will be the centre of attention as the electrical goods retailer reveals how it performed over Christmas

TODAY

Interim: none scheduled.
Finals: AG Barr, Treant.
Economic statistics: UK December provisional GDP and circulation of notes and coins, US November housing completions, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills, Tokyo markets close early.

TOMORROW

Interim: Bepko, Universal Salvage, Final: Gardiner, Whalley & Barker, Ecomet.
Statistics: US November factory orders, Bundesbank calls for repos, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills, US Federal Reserve releases revised industrial output data, for 1996, API weekly oil supply statistics.

WEDNESDAY

Interim: Dixons, Final: Robert H Lowe, M&W.
Economic statistics: US November consumer credit, Bundesbank awards repos.

THURSDAY

Interim: Abbey, Druck Holdings, Goode Durrant, Jura Hotels Group, Final: Brunner Investment Trust.
Economic statistics: UK November housing starts, UK Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders December retail registrations, German 1996 GDP, German December unemployment, US weekly jobless claims, US November wholesale inventories, US December producer prices, Bundesbank central council meeting.

FRIDAY

Interim: Crown Eyeglass, Final: BZW Commodities, Trust, Economic statistics: US December retail sales, UK December producer prices, US December non-farm payrolls, US December unemployment rate.

AFTER Christmas, both the stock market and economic policymakers will be anxious to get the festive period behind them. Did prosperity finally break out in a consumer splurge, as the record consumer credit rise reported on Friday suggests, or was it, as some grassroots reports imply, a fairly average Christmas, and new year for most retailers?

The results of the CBI's distributive trades survey for December will be published in Friday morning's newspapers. However, more attention will be paid to the individual experience of big retail chains as they issue trading statements. Boots, Next, Argos, Lloyds Chemists and Sainsbury are among those expected to reveal all this week.

Most interest will focus on Dixons, the top electrical goods retailer whose fortunes ride strongly on the Christmas season. Dixons is the largest trading group scheduled to report profits formally this week, with AG Barr, the soft drinks group, a distant second. On Wednesday, Sir Stanley Kalms, the chairman and chief executive of Dixons, will report on first-half earnings to November 9. City forecasts range from £52 million to £59 million pre-tax, well up on £37.5 million a year ago but a little less than estimates a few months ago. The full year to April 30 could deliver £190 million, up from a reported £101.5 million and underlying £135 million last year.

However, the group's comments on peak-season trading will doubtless have analysts adjusting their full-year forecasts. Next year, Dixons faces full VAT on its lucrative warranty business. Mean-

while, UBS was looking for the interim dividend to rise from 2.05p to 2.25p net on the way to a full-year 11p (8.75p).

Before that, Monday should provide a more general indication of spending in the form of new December figures for M4, the cash measure of money supply, and for the note and coin issue alone.

Union Discount expects a 0.6 per cent rise in the seasonally adjusted December figure. This would give an annual rise of 6.9 per cent, down from 7.4 per cent a month ago because a sharp rise a year ago goes out of the reckoning. That is also the median forecast collected by MMS International, but MMS itself expects a 1.2 per cent December rise to give a

year-on-year 7.6 per cent. Even if the annual figure is down, it would be worrying for future inflation if special factors were not again called in to explain away the high growth rate. Union expects annual inflation of 7.5 per cent

in notes and coin outstanding (up from 7.4 per cent) after a 0.9 per cent rise in December. Unlike the retail trends, these money figures do not usually feature prominently in the Chancellor's monthly interest rate discussions with the

Governor of the Bank of England, due on January 15. Their meeting will, however, take note of the trend of industrial production and especially manufacturing output, which have been decidedly dull of late.

Forecasts for industrial output suggest it rose between 0.3 and 0.5 per cent in November, the median 0.5 per cent giving annual growth of just 1.3 per cent. The expected 0.3 per cent rise in manufacturing, median of a similarly tight range, would leave annual growth of only 0.9 per cent. This is in part blamed on the rising pound, so policymakers will be wary of raising interest rates sooner than necessary.

On nervous foreign exchanges, however, button-

pressing fingers will be waiting for a clutch of American economic signals to see how they match up against market expectations. These include November factory orders on Monday (median forecast is for a 0.5 per cent drop) and consumer credit on Tuesday (forecast to rise \$3.5 billion).

On Wednesday look for a 0.3 per cent rise in December producer prices and a lower 350,000 new unemployment claims. On Friday, most sensibly, December US non-farm payrolls are expected to have risen by 175,000, the unemployment rate to have edged down from 5.4 to 5.3 per cent and hourly earnings to have risen 0.2 per cent.

Graham Searjeant

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Northern Petroleum, T&N, Fairway Group, Hogg Robinson, Tunstall. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Fairway, Kwik-Fit, Taylor Nelson AGB, Scottish Radio Holdings, Hambros Insurance Services, Crown Eyeglass.

Independent on Sunday: Buy SIG Group, Enterprise Oil (switch from Lamsco), Calluna, Sell Northern Leisure. The Mail on Sunday: Buy European Telecom, Waverley Holdings, News of the World, Buy Safeway, Logica, Whitbread, Berkeley.

Irish plan statutory panel for takeovers

By Gavin Lumsden

THE UK Takeover Panel is set to relinquish this year the regulation of 60 Irish companies listed on the London Stock Exchange.

Companies such as the Bank of Ireland, CRH, the building materials group and Smurfit, the paper and packaging manufacturer, are expected to come under the remit of a new statutory body to be headed by Leo Conway, former head of corporate finance at Ulster Bank.

Legislation has been laid before the Dail, the Republic's parliament. The new panel is intended to regulate takeovers and mergers in 60 companies with a combined market capitalisation of £21 billion.

Its statutory powers have raised concerns that it will open corporate actions to litigation, making bids lengthier and more expensive. But Kevin McHugh, head of regulation at the Irish Stock Exchange, said the current appeals procedure already provided potential legal obstacles, and statutory backing was essential to give the new panel teeth. The City panel's sanction of blacklisting companies would not work in the smaller Irish market, he said.

The UK Takeover Panel is trying to defend its voluntary regime, but the European Parliament is poised to pass a compulsory directive this month.

The new Irish body will be separate from the Irish Stock Exchange, although it will have a stock exchange representative on its board, alongside members from bodies such as the Association of Investment Managers and the Law Society.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

GB Railways makes debut

By Fraser Nelson

GB RAILWAYS, which yesterday started running the Anglia rail franchise, joins the Alternative Investment Market, valued at £3.75 million.

While the firm was a shell until yesterday it has succeeded in raising £6.3 million from placing 80 per cent of its shares with institutions at 100p apiece. The shares are expected to attract an instant premium of 50p each, according to traders from Winter-

flood Securities. Steadier market conditions are coaxing back companies that put off flotation plans after December's mini-crash. Acute, a marketing services company, is expected to be valued at £3.5 million when it joins AIM this month.

VFG, which rents film equipment, is likely to be valued at £7 million on flotation, after raising £3 million to buy 30 more cameras at £80,000 each.

JSB, whose computer program Surf Control aims to stop time browsing through the Internet, is raising £5 million from a placing which values the firm at £15 million. It plans to use the money to take its software to America.

A more unusual stock is Inner City Enterprise, a consultancy that advises councils how to regenerate city centres. Tether & Greenwood, its nominated adviser, is looking

to fetch a £5 million price tag for the firm.

As trading warmed up again after the holidays, the FTSE AIM index closed the week at 1,040.50, up 8.9 points. A few stocks are beginning to be affected by uncertainty surrounding the London Stock Exchange's disciplinary review of AIM. While the decisions are expected to be made this month, the results are unlikely to be known until August.

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Personal Customers

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Investment Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option		High Interest Cheque Account	Gross %	Net %
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %			
£100,000+	5.40	4.32	5.27	4.27	£50,000+	3.25	1.20
£ 50,000+	5.00	4.00	4.88	3.91	£25,000+	2.10	1.00
£ 25,000+	4.60	3.72	4.55	3.64	£10,000+	2.00	1.00
£ 10,000+	4.30	3.44	4.22	3.38	£ 5,000+	1.50	1.00
Below £10,000	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40	Below £5,000	1.00	0.80

30 Day Savings	Annual Option		Monthly Option		1619 Account, Headway and Young Savers	Gross %	Net %
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %			
£25,000+	3.55	2.84	3.49	2.79	£500+	2.15	1.72
£10,000+	3.25	2.60	3.20	2.58	£250+	2.00	1.60
£ 5,000+	2.95	2.36	2.91	2.33	£ 50+	1.75	1.10
Below £5,000	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40	Below £50	1.00	0.80

Instant Savings Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option		Asset Management Service Investment Account	Gross %	Net %
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %			
£25,000+	3.50	2.80	3.45	2.76	£100,000+	5.27	4.22
£10,000+	3.15	2.52	3.11	2.49	£ 50,000+	4.88	3.91
£ 5,000+	2.70	2.16	2.67	2.14	£ 25,000+	4.55	3.64
£ 500+	2.35	1.88	2.32	1.86	£ 10,000+	4.22	3.38
Below £500	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40	Below £10,000	2.33	1.86

Deposit Account	Half-yearly Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£1+	0.25	0.20	0.25	0.20

Interest rates may vary from time to time. The notice lists current rates.
GROSS - The annual interest rate before deduction of tax (where applicable).
NET - The annual interest rate after deduction of tax at the appropriate rate; this is shown for illustrative purposes only. Certain customers may be able to reclaim the tax from the Inland Revenue.
TAX/FREE - The annual interest rate when interest is exempt from income tax.
Interest is normally paid at the net rate, unless the Account falls within an exempt category or the Account holder qualifies to receive interest gross.

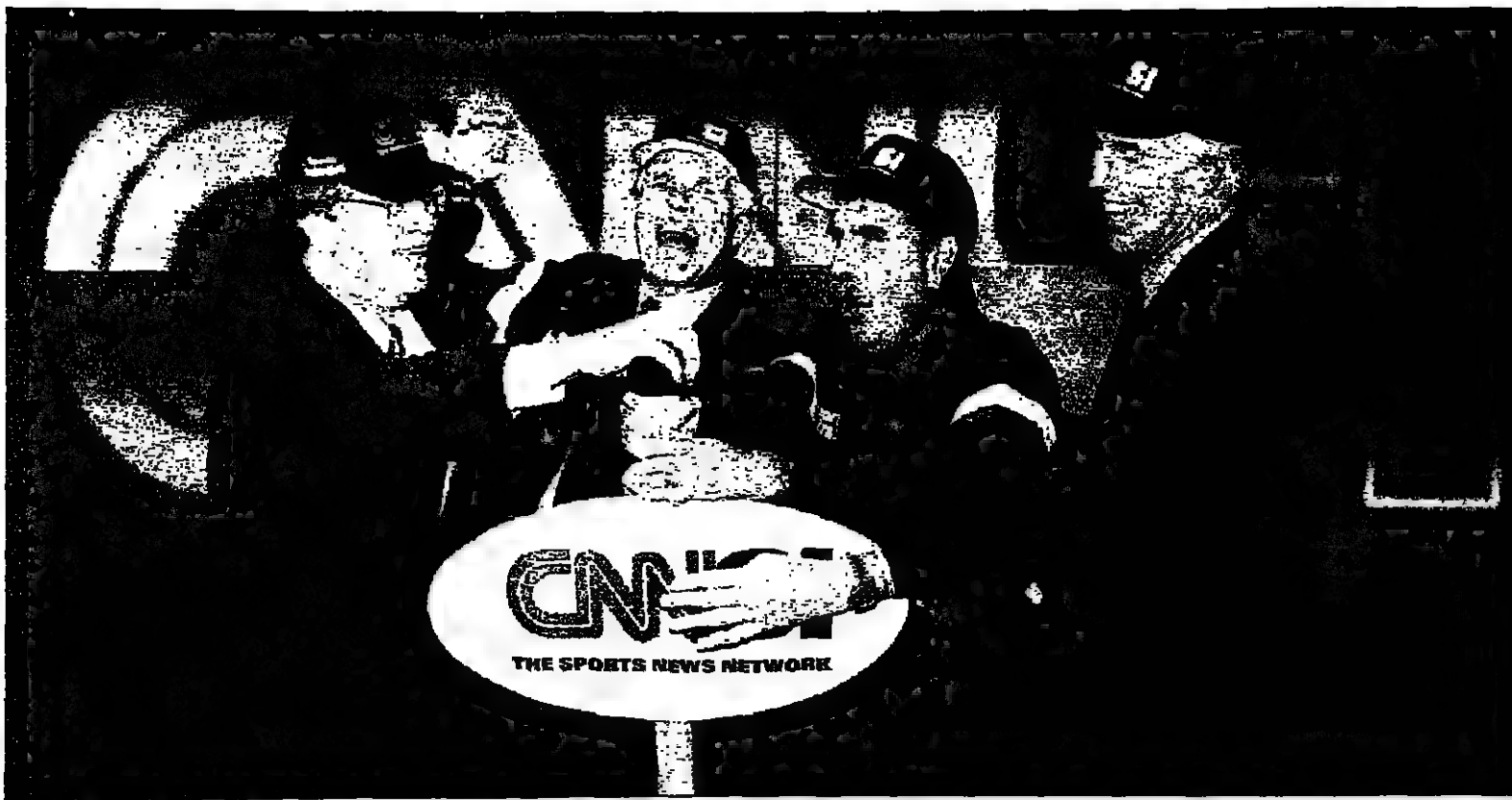
These rates of interest apply with effect from 6 January 1997

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Happy times for Gerald Levin, second right, with Ted Turner, second left, at a CNN launch last month, but some analysts think his job is at risk

Blood flows in Tinseltown massacre of studio moguls

Richard Thomson relates a real-life saga of money, power and betrayal

The body count was higher than in a Stallone movie and the plot more tortuous than a spy thriller. Real life in Hollywood's boardrooms over the past 12 months has put most of Tinseltown's fictional storylines to shame with money, power and betrayal emerging as the dominant themes.

As films grow ever more expensive — \$80-\$100 million or more is the going cost of a blockbuster — and as film companies become conglomerates, the demands on top executives seem to be more than many can bear. To keep their jobs they have to be expert businessmen, creative artists, and good corporate greasy-pole climbers in what is, at best, a cut-throat environment.

The downfall of Michael Ovitz neatly illustrates the point. Once known as the most powerful man in Hollywood as head of the Creative Artists Agency and general deal broker, he failed completely to fit into the corporate culture of Walt Disney where he went as president only 14 months ago.

His old job depended on a flair for schmoozing, on projecting a certain style, and knowing all the right people. At Disney he upset powerful colleagues by commandeering an office supposedly the size of a football pitch and keeping limousines waiting outside just in case he needed them. This behaviour did not fit his new role. Under the autocratic control of its chairman, Michael Eisner, Disney has become an entertainment monolith over the past ten years. It is Big Business — it's corporate style is closer to IBM or Exxon than the small creative venture that Disney was a few years ago. Within months of Mr Ovitz's arrival his "best friend", Mr Eisner, realised that he was not making the grade as a Disney corporate man and began ruthlessly levering him out. Although Mr Ovitz leaves with a payoff said to be around \$90 million, he achieved little and his job prospects now appear much less rosy.

One place he will probably not be going is Sony's US entertainment arm, where the bloodletting this year was spectacular as the Japanese finally took a machete to their disastrous investment in Columbia TriStar, the film studios. By giving bad management free rein for years, Sony has lost around \$5 billion in the studios and has produced an impressive number of box office flops. *Cable Guy* (for which Jim Carey was paid \$20 million), *The Fan* (with Robert de Niro) and *Multiplicity* all bombed expensively in 1996, and Nobuyuki Idei, Sony's president, finally decided to clean house.

During the summer the heads of Columbia and TriStar, as well as top creative and marketing executives and Michael Schulhoff, chairman of Sony Entertainment in the US, lost their

jobs. The last to go was Alan Levine, head of Sony's Hollywood venture, to be replaced by John Calley, a film veteran with a string of hits to his name. The big question in Tinseltown now is whether Sony will float or sell its studios. It could take several years to get them back into financial shape but Mr Idei may get rid of them sooner.

Meanwhile, Time Warner struggled to recover from the firing of three successive heads of its music division in 1995, followed by the management disruption of merging with Turner Broadcasting System this year. It is another conglomerate struggling to pull its disparate parts together and impress a distinctly sceptical stock market that it knows where it is going. Many analysts believe Gerald Levin, its chairman, may be the next to go.

Another high-profile victim was Frank Biondi, head of Viacom. The issue again was corporate performance, with the volatile Summer Redstone, who controls Viacom, claiming Mr Biondi did not have the drive to revive the company's flagging profits.

The sacking shocked the media industry since the two men were thought to be close friends. But Mr Biondi walked away with a \$20 million payoff and took the top job at MCA, the studio owned by Seagram, for a reported salary of \$75 million over five years.

Part of the problem in Hollywood is the intense competition for audiences and the glut of new films that regularly flood the cinemas at certain times of the year. An expensive film that flops or simply underperforms expectations can deliver a staggering blow to a studio's finances, putting its executives under intense pressure. Several studios have recently vowed to reduce their production and cut the costs of filmmaking but none has so far lived up to its words.

This is the backdrop to the launch of DreamWorks, the company started by Steven Spielberg, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg (Bill Gates is also involved as an investor). To Hollywood's surprise, DreamWorks has produced very little except a few television shows. Observers say that its failure to make a splash with a big film or an animation may mean that it is faltering in the highly competitive movie market. If it is, it may mean the fall of three more stars of the Hollywood business firmament.

After the chaos of 1996 it might be reasonable to expect the next 12 months to be less fraught for Hollywood's bosses. Yet the financial problems that they face are not going to vanish and it is never wise to underestimate Hollywood's ability to come up with unexpected plot twists. The only thing that seems certain is that those who lose their jobs will still end up as multimillionaires.



Michael Eisner, left, and Michael Ovitz at the Disney studios

Racial equality 'will help UK to compete'

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BUSINESS leaders are joining the Government in a new initiative on racial equality — and they will insist jointly that greater equality will give British companies a competitive advantage in world markets.

Gillian Shephard, Employment and Education Secretary, will join Robert Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, in announcing the initiative, together with Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality.

Building on a long-term campaign by the CRE, they will set out the business case for racial equality in employment, including how best to develop equality policies on race for the millennium and beyond.

At a conference this month, ministers and business leaders will accept that there is some way to go before members of ethnic minorities are fully represented at every level across all sectors of business.

The Government will emphasise that Britain's ethnic minorities form a "significant and increasing" proportion of the UK's working population, as well as representing a growing and important consumer market that

employers cannot afford to ignore. Mrs Shephard said: "We will be putting the case to business leaders that racial equality of opportunity in employment is central to good business and management practice, not simply because it is fair but also because it makes good business sense. . . . The business necessity for race equality in employment is clear."

Mr Ouseley said: "Companies are beginning to recognise the benefits of racial equality at work, and the equal opportunity policies which are a key to achieving diversity."

Mr Ouseley said: "Companies are beginning to recognise the benefits of racial equality at work, and the equal opportunity policies which are a key to achieving diversity."

Foreign legion marches in to slay dragons of Welsh economy

Iola Smith on how Wales bucked trend of decline in manufacturing

Inward investment has revived the Welsh economy. Thirteen years ago, when the Principality seriously began to woo foreign firms in a bid to diversify away from declining heavy industries, 12.8 per cent of the workforce was unemployed, against a UK average of 10.1 per cent. Today, unemployment in Wales is down to 7.5 per cent, against a 6.9 per cent national average.

Some areas, such as Merthyr — where 5,000 people applied for 300 jobs — at Wales's first Korean-owned company, Halla — prove that much remains to be done. But Wales has managed to cut unemployment by 35 per cent since 1983 and seemingly unhelpful local conditions.

That is largely because of the 414 overseas-owned plants that employ 157,000 people, a third of the manufacturing workforce. These companies employ more people than the 152,700 who lacked jobs in 1983.

Last year, according to William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, "we've won over 130 projects, promising more than 15,000 jobs". But foreign firms have done more than just create jobs. They have invested more than £10.2 billion in capital projects.

Professor Gareth Rhys, of Cardiff Business School, said: "They have revitalised Welsh manufacturing industry. Wales is bucking the trend of decline in manufacturing."

The sector has grown by an eighth since 1990, and the two main areas of development, electronics and automotive components, have experienced huge expansion. Some 200 automotive components producers employ some 27,000 people, and create annual sales of £1.7 billion.

This growth, Professor Rhys believes, is because of Wales's low unit labour costs. "That does not mean low wages," he insists. "Wages paid by inward investors tend to be higher than those paid by indigenous businesses. But as our workforce has high productivity, unit labour costs are low."

The flexible nature of the Welsh workforce was noted by 50 of the Principality's top inward investors in a survey by Coopers & Lybrand. Nine out of ten said their workforce beat requirements for productivity and willingness to train. Sony said: "We are the most flexible, productive, and profitable site in Europe."

That is why Sony, like three quarters of the investors questioned, wants to expand in South Wales. Earlier this month it announced a £50 million investment at Bridgend and Pencroft that will create 1,000 jobs making tubes for wide-screen televisions.

"Companies that expand here show their commitment to Wales," says James Turner, the Welsh Development Agency's head of inward investment. "And they demonstrate to new investors that Wales is a successful place in which to operate. They are an important endorsement for us."

Mr Turner believes that the £1.7 billion investment planned by Lucky Goldstar (LGC) is the best advert Wales will receive over the next 10 years. He claims that the

6,100 jobs to be created directly by the Korean conglomerate in Newport will bring 15,000 more jobs, created by suppliers.

The Sony experience proves that this is possible. Cardiff Business School reckons that for each of the 4,000 people employed directly by Sony, a further four have been taken on by suppliers.

These include 40 small indigenous Welsh businesses and inward investors such as Ocean Technical Glass, the German-Japanese joint venture which set up in Cardiff Bay to make glass for Sony televisions.

Investments of this kind from the US, Korea and Japan are expected in Lucky Goldstar's wake. Some companies, such as Align-Rite, the American-owned electronics firm, have expanded

management training programme for businesses introducing Japanese ideas on shop-floor efficiency, communications and relationships with suppliers. It includes factory visits and problem-solving workshops for companies seeking efficiency gains.

The success of inward investment in south east Wales is causing some concern that the economy there could overheat. "But that is not a problem at present," says Mr Turner. "Together with a Tec and Imperial College, which is joint owner of LG's site, we are establishing a training centre in semi-conductor electronics to ensure that skills shortages will not become a problem."

There has been criticism from communities in Gwynedd, Pembrokeshire and Heads of The Valleys that they have been passed over by the foreign boom. Although location is largely up to companies, some are beginning to look at less favoured areas. Last week Faure, the French car seat manufacturer, announced a £12 million plan to establish a factory and create 300 jobs in the unemployment black spot of Trefeglwys.

Cell Centres are planned for the rural north and west in the hope that they can emulate the success of rural Mid Wales in attracting foreign companies. John Taylor, chief executive of the Development Board for Rural Wales, says: "Our European, Japanese and North American-owned firms are helping us diversify the rural economy. And the wages they pay are on a par with the UK average."

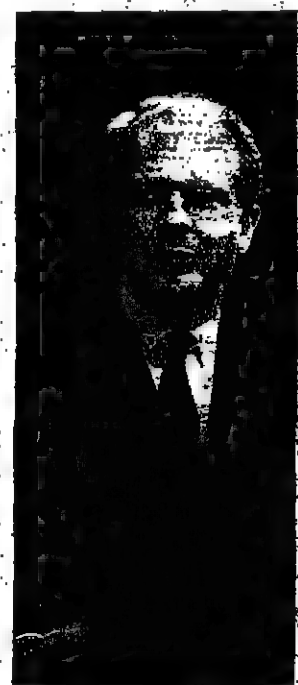
Manufacturing now employs a tenth of the rural workforce, as many as in manufacturing.

Undoubtedly, 175 North American and continental, 51 Japanese and 23 Asian and Australian operations have changed the face of the Welsh economy in 13 years. But maintaining momentum is hard, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when Wales routinely attracted a fifth of the UK's inward investment projects, it was a big player in a less competitive market.

In 1985 the WDA was one of only three such bodies seeking business in Tokyo. Europe now has 650 agencies, twice as many as five years ago, all competing for projects.

After redrawing the development area map in 1993, only a seventh of the Principality's population now lives in a designated development area, compared with a third in 1992. Fortunately grants, though important, are not the only issue for relocating companies. Almedica, an American clinical testing equipment manufacturer, chose Deeside, North Wales, in preference to another UK region that could give financial assistance.

The WDA is keen to dismiss the idea that the regions are trying to outbid each other to attract foreign companies. "Inward investment is now industrial policy," says Professor Rhys. "If a project does not come to Wales, or Scotland, or wherever, it does not come to the UK." Everyone loses because, as Professor Rhys points out, "inward investment's greatest success is in rebuilding Britain's industrial base."



Hague: 130 projects

in Bridgend in anticipation of Lucky Goldstar. Under the Source Wales initiative, LG will also be encouraged to look local whenever possible. For example, Halla, its competitor, has already ordered £1 million of goods and services from local suppliers, two thirds of its needs.

"Sourcing locally is a positive business advantage," says Neil Fitzgerald, Halla's purchasing officer. "A lot of our suppliers are close enough to enable us to meet personally and talk things through whenever there is a problem. That makes for efficiency."

Newcomers like LG also introduced new management practices. Both indigenous and non-Asian inward investors are being introduced to the Japanese way of doing business. Back in the 1980s, Sony learnt the hard way about the British approach to supplier standards. Two fifths of components arriving at Bridgend were defective. Now, after a training initiative and supplier award scheme, the failure rate is down to one in 200.

The Welsh Development Agency (WDA) has set up a

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Denmark Kr	10.53	9.73
Finland Mk	6.98	7.73
France Fr	9.18	8.54
Germany Dr	2.76	2.55
Greece Dr	430	405
Hong Kong \$	13.68	12.68
Ireland Pt	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.98
Israel Shk	5.76	5.11
Italy Lira	2673	2618
Japan Yen	209.30	193.30
Malta	0.546	0.591
Netherlands Gld	3.073	2.843
New Zealand \$	2.53	2.31
Norway Kr	11.34	10.54
Portugal Esc	273.00	254.50
S Africa Rd	8.51	7.71
Spain Pta	226.50	218.50
Sweden Kr	12.28	11.48
Switzerland Fr	2.40	2.22
Turkey Lira	182000	180500
USA \$	1.795	1.658

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar	1.6916 (-0.0001)
German mark	2.6345 (+0.0034)
Exchange index	95.8 (+0.2)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share	2811.8 (+16.0)
FTSE 100	4089.5 (-1.5)
New York Dow Jones	6544.09 (-16.82)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge	Closed

Answers from page 36

VALANCE

(c) A piece of drapery attached lengthways to a canopy, altar-cloth, or the like, so as to hang in a vertical position. Possibly from the Old French *valance* to descend. Upon striking the tent, we found beneath the valance between the crown and the walls a regiment of scorpions.

WEANIE

(a) A very young child. Scottish dialect. The diminutive of wean. Robert Burns, *Scotch Drink*, 1785: "When skirlin weanies see the light, / Thou maks the gossip clatter bright."

WORT

(a) The infusion of malt or other grain which after fermentation becomes beer (or may be used for the distillation of spirits), unfermented beer. Old English *wort* = Old Saxon *wurtja* spicery. "No person may, without being licensed, / Brew or make wort or wain."

VUM

(c) To vow or swear. Old-fashioned American colloquialism. An alteration of *to vow*. Oliver Wendell Holmes, *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*, 1858: "But the Deacon swore, (as Deacons do, With an 'I dew vum', or an 'I tell yeu'."

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Prospects for 1997 offer little hope of early improvement

In Europe, the gilt market has been the one bond market that many analysts said looked cheap but few investors wished to buy. The result has been an abysmal performance over the past year. This was the case in absolute terms but was more pronounced in relative terms, given that gilts failed to participate in the convergence trades that dominated other European bond markets. 1996 will be remembered as the year in which yields on Spanish and Italian bonds dived below those available on gilts.

There were three main reasons for this dismal state of affairs. The first was EMU-induced yield convergence. Market valuations were severely affected by shifting perceptions as to which countries would be in or out of EMU. Whatever one's view on the possibility of

Italy, for example, being in EMU at the start, there was considerably less doubt about the UK. Change of government or not, EMU entry in the UK looks further away than in most other major EU economies.

Secondly, there was political risk. As the Government staggered from one mini-crisis to another, and its majority in the House of Commons disappeared, a Labour victory at the next general election looked an increasingly safe bet. This is not perceived to be the market threat that it once was, as the prospective Labour approach to key aspects of macro policy look indistinguishable from those of the Conservative Party.

Nevertheless, markets dislike risk and in various respects — on tax policy and the public sector borrowing requirement in particular — uncertainty remains over

GILT-EDGED

the new government's likely approach. To international — or indeed domestic — investors faced with a wide range of alternatives, this seemed like a market to shun.

Finally, there has been the state of the economy itself. Strong consumer-led growth and falling unemployment does make the UK economy look like one of the most successful in Europe. But from a bond market perspective this carries risks, crucially for inflation and hence for short-term interest rates. An upbeat Budget forecast, as well as the surprise base-rate hike of late October, underlined the extent of these risks.

Looking forward, the depressing con-

clusion is that if this analysis of the reason for gilts' underperformance is correct, then not much is set to change, at least in the early part of 1997. EMU concerns and political risk will clearly persist for a while. And the extent of the threat posed by strong economic growth remains far from clear. Base rates are set to rise again (most probably in February, after the release of the Q4 GDP estimate in late January), but that will not be the end of the story. The trend in base rates could continue to be up for much of this year, regardless of which party wins the election.

In short, it will get worse before it gets better and the yield premium of ten-year

gilts over German bunds — currently around 1.85 per cent — is likely to exceed 2 per cent before the election is out of the way. After that, however, some improvement should be in prospect. The impact of stronger growth (around 3.5 per cent in 1997) on inflation will be limited given the clear shift in inflationary expectations in the UK and internationally. Inflation is not expected to stray much from the 2.5 per cent target (likely to be retained by the new government). The peak of the base-rate cycle should be no higher than 7 per cent under these circumstances.

Nevertheless, the experience of 1996 shows that it would be unwise to get too enthusiastic about gilts in 1997. Although the market may do slightly better post-election, the extent of the improvement is expected to be limited. Strongish GDP

growth, rising interest rates and continued scepticism about Europe even under a Labour government (committed, like the Government in power, to following rather than leading public opinion) all differentiate the UK market from most other European bond markets.

This combination of political and economic factors makes the UK look unique in a European context at the moment. While many might quite legitimately argue that this is a desirable state of affairs (with an unemployment rate, for example, that is the envy of most), it does imply that gilts could end up being the last genuinely high-yielding European bond market.

JOHN SHEPPARD AND
NIGEL RICHARDSON
Yamaichi International (Europe) Ltd

Rolls-Royce and BAe seek end to stake limit

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A FRESH push on the Government to relax the limits on foreign investors in British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce has been launched by the two companies in the wake of the planned merger between Boeing and McDonnell Douglas of the United States.

Sir Richard Evans, BAe chief executive, and Sir Ralph Robins, chairman of Rolls-Royce, asked Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, before Christmas to lift the 29.5 per cent foreign investor limit.

Their call is the latest in a long battle for the rule, instigated at the privatisation of both companies, to be abandoned in response to the increasing globalisation of their businesses and the growth in strategic alliances between companies. Boeing

revealed plans last month to become the world's largest aerospace company via a takeover of McDonnell Douglas, making flexibility among members of the European aerospace industry more urgent. The merger is the latest consolidation of US companies. It is exerting pressure on Europe's aerospace business as it competes with US giants for business. But European consolidation is impeded by national politics.

For some time, BAe has warned the Government of the need for Europe's groups to get together or face extinction. Rolls-Royce is similarly affected by fierce competition in aerospace and has a growing international arm that strengthens its desire for flexibility in foreign investment. BAe faces a big reorganisation of its resources when Airbus, the consortium in which it has a 20 per cent stake, becomes a single company in 1999.

Foreign ownership in both companies stands at about 26 per cent, leaving them with no space to strike large links involving cross-ownership with overseas companies.

If the Department of Trade and Industry stands firm over the limits, it would heighten the industrial logic of a merger between BAe and GEC, the other big UK aerospace business. But such a link might not find favour with the Ministry of Defence, which would be dealing with just one contractor for military needs.

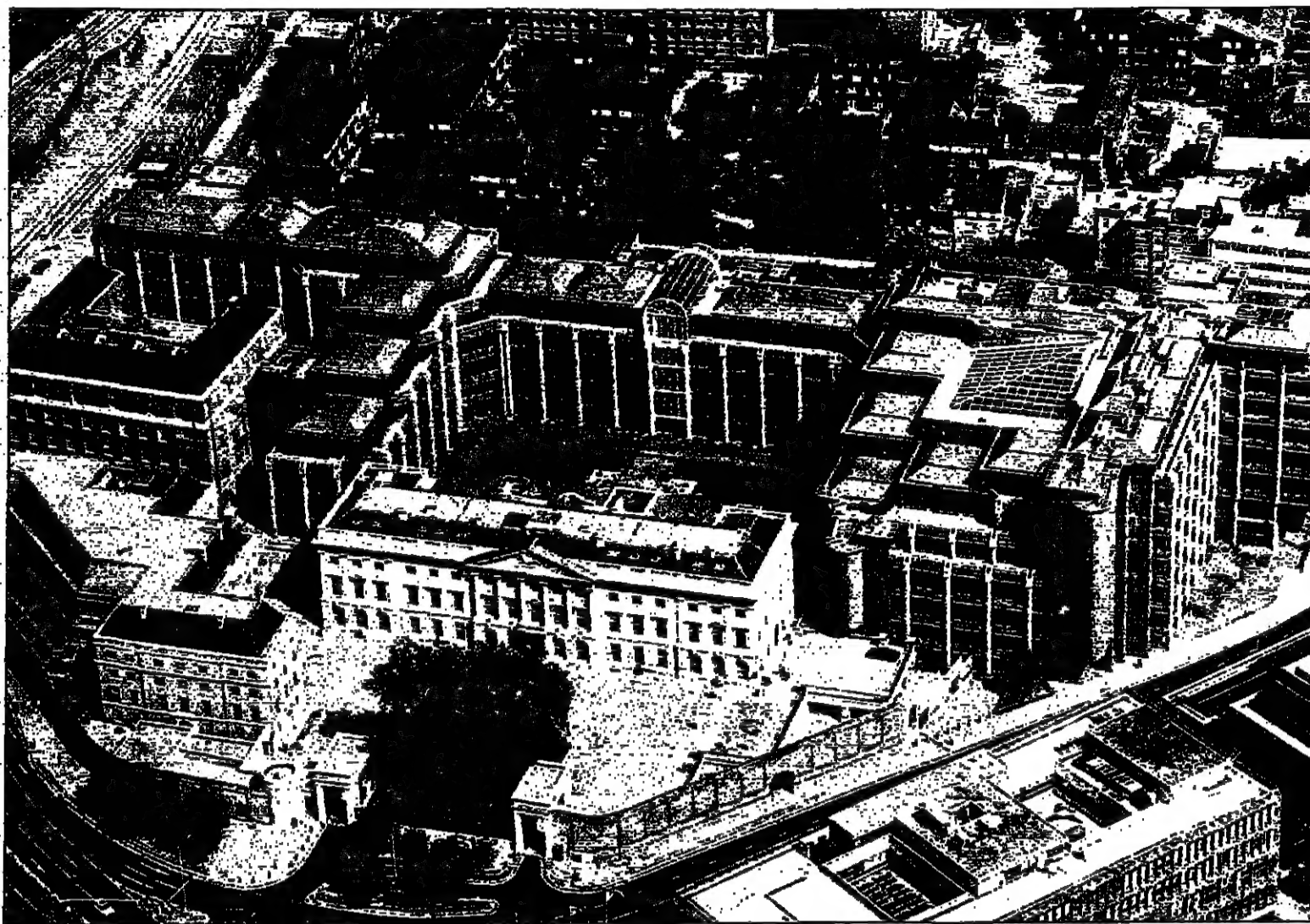
The DTI could not comment yesterday on talks between the companies and Mr Lang. But it is thought his department is receptive to the idea. If there are encouraging signs from the DTI, BAe and Rolls-Royce will be keen to win assurances before the general election.

A BAe spokesman said yesterday that the lobbying of the DTI was "part of the bigger picture in the industry". Rolls-Royce said there was no deadline for further talks between the parties.

Originally, foreign ownership in the two companies was restricted to 14.9 per cent — as it is with more recent privatisations such as the electricity generators — but was raised to its present level eight years ago, after Rolls-Royce had to force some investors to sell when the limit was exceeded.

The idea of limiting foreign ownership is to prevent overseas takeovers of big business. But the companies think a takeover could still be stopped by the Government regardless of the ownership make-up.

Last year the DTI reaffirmed its commitment to golden shares in the generators although it had allowed foreign takeovers of several other electricity companies after golden shares expired.



THE former Royal Mint complex, centred on Sir Robert Smirke's landmark classical building opposite the Tower of London, has been sold to Capital and Income Group, called CIT and owned by a group of

overseas millionaires. CIT has paid £90 million to Hermes, managers of BT pension funds, for a long lease on the 440,000 square feet of office space, mainly contained in undistinguished 1980s blocks at the back of the listed

building. The Crown Commissioners, who are the freeholders, share half the rents on the complex, which come largely from Barclays Bank. The deal shows an initial yield of 8.75 per cent. CIT has bought four other prominent

buildings in the past year, including Smith New Court (now Merrill Lynch) headquarters and Sea Containers House, both in London. Hermes is looking to reinvest the proceeds in other let City property.

Visa to fine banks with millennium bug

BY FRASER NELSON

VISA, the world's largest credit card company, is preparing to impose a fine of up to £100,000 per month on some of its member banks in a last-ditch attempt to ensure that they will accept credit cards with expiry dates extending into the new millennium.

The company, itself a consortium of 20,000 banks, is launching the penal system a year after its first deadline for Year 2000 compliance. It estimated that 1.3 million outlets worldwide are still unable to cope with cards with expiry dates ending "00". Britain is believed to account for only 40,000 of the faulty terminals.

After April, banks that have

problems processing the cards will be charged between £600 and £100,000 per month, depending on volume, until they correct the bug.

Visa says that 90 per cent of terminals accept the new cards but an unacceptably high number still throw up an error. Jim Dickie, vice president of Visa's operations and services in Europe, said the move was the next logical step to safeguard the card's brand name.

Year 2000 compliance is the first of three upheavals Visa faces over the next three years. The cards are also to have built-in microchips, and European monetary union will require further upgrades.

Abell denies talk of bid for Jourdan

DAVID ABELL, former chairman of Suter, has denied reports that he plans to launch a bid for Thomas Jourdan, the trouser-press to DIY goods company in which he controls a 4.5 per cent stake (Fraser Nelson writes).

Mr Abell, who netted £10 million when Suter was bought by Asot Holdings, told *The Times* he holds the shares as part of a range of investments and without ulterior motive. Bid talk shot Jourdan's shares from a three-year low of 22p two weeks ago to 33p after the company said it was asking Mr Abell to "clarify his interest". Jourdan also disclosed that Mr Abell's friends and family owned 1.7 per cent of the shares.

GGT deals may be halted until March

BY JASON NISSE

INVESTORS in GGT Group, the advertising agency, may have to wait until March to see a restocking of the company's shares. These were suspended in September when GGT announced a £10 million bid for BDDP, a French rival.

Mike Greenlees, GGT's chief executive, has been hoping to have news for shareholders this month. But now he does not expect to have a prospectus ready to give shareholders the details of the deal until the end of January at the earliest.

"We are just completing due diligence but we hope to have a shareholders' meeting on February 28," Mr Greenlees

told *The Times*. GGT Group shares were suspended because of the size of the deal, which will treble the size of the London agency.

The transaction has reminded City analysts of mid-1980s deals such as WPP Group's purchase of J Walter Thompson and Blue Arrow's acquisition of Manpower.

GGT's directors have been fearful of a market collapse while due diligence is under way. Their confidence has not been helped by the news that Wells Rich Green, BDDP's New York agency, recently lost £50 million worth of work for Ford, the motor company.

Lending to developing world soars

International banks are lending money to developing and smaller countries in an "unprecedented volume", according to the Bank for International Settlements.

New lending outside Western Europe, North America and Japan totalled \$60.7 billion in the first half of 1996, the BIS reports. Lending to Asian countries reached a record \$34.7 billion. South Korea rebounded to top spot with \$10.9 billion.

New lending to Latin America recovered strongly to \$10.1 billion, but sharp inflows into Brazil consisted largely of short-term money.

Costain EGM

Costain, the troubled construction group, faces its shareholders today for its second extraordinary meeting in as many weeks. The company, which is the main contractor for the controversial Newbury by-pass in Berkshire, wants to ratify part of its rescue plans and the issuing of shares to two key overseas investors. Costain hopes to raise more than £5 million through the new shares to fund restructuring.

IoD attack

More than half the members of the Institute of Directors who responded to a survey on the EU's working hours directive said it would damage their business, with only 3 per cent rating it a benefit. IoD members also criticised in advance any labour market regulations likely to be made under the EU's social chapter. Ruth Lea, head of the IoD's policy unit, said: "Imposition of these regulations can only damage business's ability to compete, thrive and create jobs."

Shares placed

Cliphore, which uses an interactive voice response telephone system to speed up trials of new drugs, has raised a further £3.3 million for expansion through a placing with the private equity arms of Mercury Asset Management and HSBC.

Bernard Matthews Bernard Matthews clarified on Friday that Mr Matthews, chairman of the eponymous turkey company, has transferred one million shares into a family trust and has not reduced the family's shareholding. No payment was received by Mr Matthews.

Clyde and hostile bidder a gulf apart

BY PAUL DURMAN

GULF CANADA'S £432 million takeover bid for Clyde Petroleum values the UK oil company's shares at less than half the rating enjoyed by Gulf Canada's own stock, Clyde claimed yesterday.

In its first defence document, Clyde said that an analysis of cash flow multiples — an important industry benchmark — showed that the company was "dramatically undervalued" by Gulf Canada's offer of 105p a share. Adjusted for debt, Gulf Canada's offer values Clyde at 5.7 times its 1995 cash flow. In comparison, Gulf Canada's shares trade on a multiple of 12.7, Clyde claims that the average multiple of comparable companies is 8.9.

Gulf Canada dismissed the cash flow comparisons as a red herring, and said that European oil companies are more

usually valued by reference to net assets. A spokesman said that Gulf was offering 40 per cent above Clyde's net asset value.

Malcolm Gourlay, Clyde's chairman, said that Gulf Canada's offer failed to reflect progress made since the company began overhauling its strategy in 1994. The company has turned round operating losses of £22.3 million in 1993, making operating profits of £33.7 million in 1995, and £27.8 million in the first half of 1996.

Since 1993, Clyde's total proven and probable reserves have risen by 37 per cent, to 225 million barrels of oil equivalent (rmbob), while commercial reserves — already on stream or commercially viable — grew by 21 per cent, to 130 rmbob.

The defence document discloses that Mr Gourlay and other Clyde directors have sold more than 450,000 shares since last April, at prices as low as 63p. Mr Gourlay

dismissed the sales as a non-issue. He said that most sales were of options close to expiry, and were partly driven by tax planning needs. He said that all Clyde's executive directors have bigger shareholdings now than a year ago.

A Gulf Canada spokesman commented: "The board have been selling out consistently over the last year. Shareholders should follow suit."

Clyde's fate largely rests with four shareholders, including Schroders, Norwich Union and PDM, that together control 52.5 per cent of its shares.

Roy Franklin, Clyde's managing director, refused to say whether Clyde was seeking a white knight in preference to a deal with Gulf Canada.

Clyde shares closed on Friday at 116p, indicating that the City believes that Gulf will have to raise its bid if it is to win.



Gourlay: progress made

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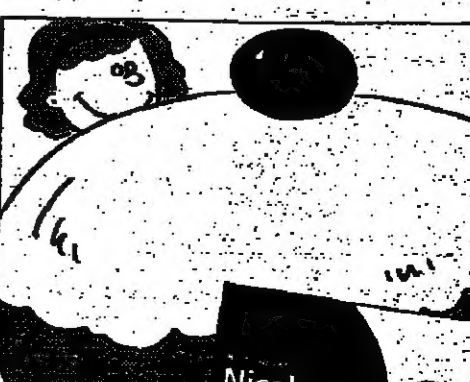
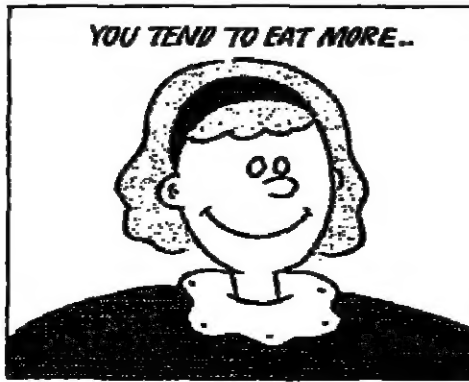


Ratner: fitness and fluency in French

Clare Stewart on the fate and fortunes of those who shaped the business world of the 1980s

Sophie Mirman is happy to trade on a smaller scale at the children's shops she runs in London

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Du Maurier dominated by Liana's Danvers

There is good news and, just for once, more good news. Let's take the good news first, shall we? Diana Rigg was on top form in last night's *Rebecca* (ITV). After two rather indifferent outings recently, first in *Moll Flanders* and then in the execrable *Samson and Delilah*, she needed something to restore morale and Mrs Danvers was definitely it. A more bewitching figure cannot have stalked the corridors of Manderley before.

As I recall, the word "menace" means something rather different in du Maurier family code, secretly signifying attractiveness. In which case Rigg's Mrs Danvers was "menacing" in every sense of the word. Stalwart, of course, as she prowled silently around the west wing, but still showing enough signs of feline grace to add a whole new dimension to her obsession with dead Rebecca. "I feel her... everywhere," she

shuddered, caressing the first Mrs de Winter's wardrobe in a very uncharacteristic way. I didn't dream it, Manderley last night, but tonight, well, fingers crossed.

That famous first line had no part to play in Arthur Hopcraft's two-part adaptation, which concludes tonight. Instead, the leggy fell to Faye Dunaway, looking far too good to play faded blowy beauty with any conviction, but still having a ball as the wealthy Mrs van Hopper. It was 1927 and Monte Carlo was no longer to her liking. "Not a single well-known personality - what's happening to this place?" Enter Maxim de Winter... which brings me to the more good news. *Rebecca*, at least on the evidence of this first helping, was wonderful.

True, there were one or two awkward moments, particularly after de Winter (Charles Dance) and his young bride (Emma Fox) returned to Manderley and the mood swung suddenly from romance to melodrama (oops, not late). Mrs Danvers, we knew, would give the new Mrs De W a hard time, but when Frith the Butler and even the nice estate manager start baring in about the fragrant Rebecca you knew we had said goodbye to anything resembling the real world. But once you make that transition, helped by the inevitable appearance of sinister black olekins talking with a thick West Country accent, it's fine.

Dance and Fox gave exceptional performance, particularly during the vital early wooing scenes, with Dance displaying just enough fatal charm to make up for the Frith's sudden bouts of rage and Fox cleverly combining grand passion with engaging innocence but never with naivety.

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

When Frank Cawley (Tim Chabon) later told her that "kindness, sincerity and modesty are worth all the beauty in the world" you knew exactly what he was talking about. Tonight's conclusion should not be missed, if only to discover whether we see any more of Rebecca than Lucy Colu's suitably captivating eyes.

(BBC1). I shall celebrate with a modest cheer. I'm right off Irish whiskey at the moment and *Ballick*, as the locals have it, is one of the main reasons why. The drama is so contrived, the stories so astonishingly inconsequential. Last night's opener was written by the man who created the series, Kieran Pennington, and was a cliff-hanger of truly pebble-like proportions. Would Assumpta (Dervla Kirwan) kiss Father Clifford (Stephen Tompkinson) in the village play, or Erda O'Sullivan, the Barrowe former rock star who has just moved into the area? Give up? Here's a clue: there are an awful lot more episodes to come.

The comic subplots were similarly sophisticated stuff, consisting of a farling Irish setter, a blocked farmyard drish and a golf-playing bishop who booked into Assumpta's hotel and then - yes, yes - booked out again. You whinny if you want to (I know many of you do), but I'm off. Wake me when *Hamish Macbeth* comes back.

Saturday night brought us that television rarity, the minor retrospective. Alan Yentob had been to New York to interview David Bowie and came back with so little material that the best part of *Chances: Bowie at Fifty* (BBC2) was all the music in-between.

In style it was like watching a very bad episode of *The Old Grey Whistle Test*. Yentob, as you might expect from a man who found success behind the camera, was a hopeless interviewer - halting, over-deferential and beginning his questions "when we spoke last..." and even "when we were in Los Angeles in '74..." But Bowie, celebrating his 50th birthday, proved an equally hopeless, halting interviewee, confirming that new school pretension did not end with the departure of Brian Eno.

It was the sort of programme that made a long film about dying seem really quite appalling. Goodbye, My Love (ITV, Saturday) had superb performances from Robert Lindsay and, particularly, Gwen Humble, as the euthanasia campaigner, Derek Humphry, and his second wife, Ann. But as a dramatisation of real events (chronology changed, dialogue created, the normal stuff) it never convinced me that this version of events was at all truthful and by particularly enlightening.

CHOICE

6.00pm GMTV (123347) 9.25 **WIN, LOSE OR DRAW** (T) 5181506 9.55 **REGIONAL NEWS** (T) 5646831 10.00 **THE TIME, THE PLACE** (542419) 10.30 **THIS MORNING** (55544815) 12.20pm **REGIONAL NEWS** (T) 56273 12.30 **NEWS** (T) and weather (T) 56273 12.55 **HIGH ROAD** (T) 4161954 1.25 **HOME AND AWAY** (T) 51203344 1.55 **MURDER, SHE WROTE** (T) 5653728 2.50 **Getaways** (T) 5621322 3.20 **NEWS** (T) 5691615 3.25 **REGIONAL NEWS** (T) 5630186 3.30 **TOTS TV** (1845257, 3.40 **Parade Days** (1714458) 3.50 **Cartoon Time** (7254483) 4.05 **SOS! The As-Needed Series** New series (5613495, 4.20 **The Addams Family** New series (T) 1902064 4.45 **Art Attack** New series (T) 1416751 5.10 **BAGGAD CAFE** (5226506) 5.40 **NEWS** (T) and weather (T) 5610511 6.00 **HOME AND AWAY** (T) 51203344 6.25 **ITV NEWS** (T) 573273 7.00 **WISH YOU WERE HERE** Urtika Jonsson discovers a little-seen side to Hawaii on the island of Kauai, while Judith Chalmers samples an outdoor family holiday in the northern French region of Picardy, and Julian Salantini discovers what delights Turkey holds in store for tourists (T) (3254)

7.30pm In a spin-off from *Watchdog*, Alice Beer finally escapes the motherly hold of Anne Robinson to host a six-part series on the fashion and beauty industry. As on *Watchdog*, entertainment mixes seamlessly with hard-headed consumerism. Is an anti-wrinkle cream all that it claims? Beer herself a trip to New York to find out. She also exposes the almost invisible distinction between editorial and advertising in some women's magazines. Victor Hugo takes time off from the front row of the fashion scene to follow a 50-year-old businessman through his facelift operation. But the trickiest task falls to the singer Toyah Willcox. With help from experts, including a man with a computer program, she sets out to define beauty.

8.00pm **THE FIGHT FOR HEARTS AND MINDS** Channel 4, 8.00pm In the first of two films on successive nights, Nick Danziger profiles the work of heart transplant surgeons at Harefield Hospital in Middlesex. The story may be familiar but Danziger has an unusual way of telling it. Many more people want transplants than there are organs available. Several die while awaiting the operation. Even those who do get a new heart are not guaranteed long-term survival. Danziger's method, as you might expect from a photo-journalist, is to rely on the candid and the white stuff of moving film. This may run against television orthodoxy but monochrome images are arguably more powerful. Danziger homes in on four potential heart transplant patients, including a five-year-old girl, and also collects the thoughts of a rising young surgeon, Peter O'Keefe. Danziger's second film was shot at the Maudsley Hospital.

Classic Trains: Coals From Newcastle Channel 4, 8.30pm We have had classic everything else, from cars to trucks and motorbikes, so it was inevitable that the same production company should get round to railways. As before, the programme is a nostalgic scrapbook, rather than formal histories, built around surviving machines and the memories of transport veterans. Narration is again entrusted to the reassuring voice of John Peel. *Classic Trains* begins where the railways began, on the coalfields of north-east England. We are reminded that coal was once transported from the pits by horse-drawn wagons on wooden rails, before steam locomotives and the iron road took over. As old pufflers are dusted down and pressed back into life, the film argues that we hung on to steam after it became obsolete. Romanticism might not agree.

The Nick Channel 4, 9.00pm Paul Berriff's fly-on-the-wall series about Gipson police station near Leeds was first broadcast in 1994. But one of the episodes had to be re-run because it featured a racist slur. That obstacle having been removed, the programme can now be shown. Berriff's ability to have the camera in the right place at the right time is again evident as he gives impressively detailed accounts of three cases. In the first, a suspected robber is holed up in a house, a second-hand shop is under surveillance for stolen goods and two bogus police officers have been calling on elderly people and seizing their money. Television documentaries have a habit of showing the less reputable side of police work but *The Nick* projects nothing but calm professionalism, laced with an agreeable strain of humour.



Charles Dance stars (8pm)

8.00pm *Rebecca* Concluding the Daphne du Maurier classic. The new Mrs de Winter tries to make her mark on Manderley by reviving the mansion's traditional fancy-dress ball (T) (1983) 10.00 **NEWS** (T) and weather (T) 5610511 10.30 **REGIONAL NEWS** (T) 56273 10.40 **NASH BRIDGES** New series following the exploits of an inspector (Don Johnson) with the San Francisco Police Department's Special Investigation Unit. Nash goes undercover to expose a gang responsible for stealing millions of dollars' worth of computer technology (T) (21803) 11.35 **MAINLY MEN** John Leslie presents a new magazine for men (545167) 12.05am **ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS: THE CHIEF** (5511910) 1.00 **PUMP** (1032) 5.30 **COUNTDOWN** (896) 5.00 **NEWYDOR** (808877) 6.00 **HENO** (23524) 6.30 **GAIR AN AUR** (175419) 7.00 **POBOL Y CWM** (303525) 7.25 **BYD AR BEDWYR** (678512) 8.00 **ACHA HA CYMA** (354) 8.30 **EastEnders** (20452) 8.50 **THE NICK** (8273) 10.00 **SGORIO** (8032) 11.00 **AMERICAN FOOTBALL: THE PLAY-OFFS** (17631) 12.30am **KLINIK** (2935823) 12.45 **WOMEN AT PLAY** (40129)

As HTV West except: 12.55pm-1.25 **A COUNTRY PRACTICE** (4161964) 1.50 **BRIEF ENCOUNTERS** (74160167) 2.20 **A COUNTRY PRACTICE** (1185806) 5.10-5.40 **HOME AND AWAY** (51203344) 6.00-7.00 **WESTCOUNTRY LIVE** (34490) 10.30 **WESTCOUNTRY NEWS** (710273) 10.45 **NASH BRIDGES** (81344) 11.40 **PRISONER: CELL BLOCK H** (235544) 5.00am **FREESCREEN** (46484)

As HTV West except: 12.55-1.25 **CROSSWORDS** (4181984) 1.50 **MURDER, SHE WROTE** (5157093) 2.50-3.20 **GARDENS WITHOUT BORDERS** (5621322) 5.10-5.40 **SHORTLAND STREET** (8326506) 6.25-7.00 **CENTRAL NEWS** (57273) 11.35 **HUNTER** (238331) 12.30am **NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE EXTRA** (5627455) 1.15 **LATE AND LOUD** (507674) 2.15 **REAL STORIES OF THE HIGHWAY PATROL** (4443910) 2.40 **Film: WICKED STEPMOTHER** (893668) 4.20 **CENTRAL JOBRINDER '97** (1461552)

As HTV West except: 12.55-1.25 **CROSSWORDS** (4181984) 1.50 **YAN CAN COOK: THE BEST OF CHINA** (74160167) 2.20 **BLUE HEELERS** (8678612) 5.10-5.40 **HOME AND AWAY** (51203344) 6.00 **MERIDIAN TONIGHT** (167) 6.30-7.00 **COUNTRY WAYS** (419) 10.30 **MERIDIAN NEWS** (710273) 10.45 **NASH BRIDGES** (81344) 11.40 **PRISONER: CELL BLOCK H** (235544) 5.00am **FREESCREEN** (46484)

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SAVING WALES 40

Foreign legion marches in to boost economy

BUSINESS

MONDAY JANUARY 6 1997

SURVIVORS 42

Entrepreneurs who shaped the Eighties



BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Most directors fail to meet codes of practice on boardroom pay

By Jason Nisse

MORE THAN 400 executive directors of quoted companies either have no service contracts or fail to disclose the detail of their contracts in spite of a legal requirement to do so, research submitted to the Hampel committee on corporate governance has revealed.

A survey of 1,036 listed companies by Manifest, the proxy voting agency, has also revealed serious divergence from the best practice in corporate governance laid

down in the Cadbury and Greenbury codes, and forms part of Manifest's submission to the committee chaired by Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman of ICI, which is looking at ways of taking the debate forward.

Manifest, which holds a share in all public companies and inspects all director service contracts, has found that 112 executive directors have no service contract and another 290 fail to disclose contract details. Only 1,139 comply with the code of best practice by having

contracts of 12 months duration or less, 1,300 have two-year fixed contracts, 116 have three-year fixed deals, 87 have two-year rolling contracts and 82 have three-year rolling contracts.

Manifest has also found anomalies that are sure to catch the eye of fund managers such as Norwich Union, Standard Life and the Prudential, which have led the fight to bring down the length of directors' service contracts. Leon Allen, chairman of Devro, the sausage casing company, is recorded as having a fixed six-year service

contract. Tom Farmer, chairman of Kwik-Fit, and Sir Richard Storey, chairman of Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers, the publisher, have rolling five-year contracts. Four directors of Automotive Precision Holdings, the engineering group, and two directors of PSIT, the prosperity and investment group, have five-year fixed contracts.

Other directors enjoying similar deals are Richard Kerr at Lowndes Lambert, the insurer, and Graeme Bowler at Kwik-Save, the supermarkets group, who was criticised

for taking a £162,000 bonus last financial year when Kwik-Save's profits dropped to £2.8 million and it cut 1,600 jobs.

Sarah Wilson, founder director of Manifest, says the only way of forcing companies to comply with best practice is for shareholders to exert pressure by voting their shares on all resolutions at annual meetings. She is working on research to establish a correlation between corporate governance best practice and company performance.

In its submission to the Hampel

committee, Manifest is emphasising that the disclosure of information and communication with shareholders is of paramount importance as part of the corporate governance debate. It recommends that voting by show of hands at AGMs be abolished in favour of a secret ballot of proxy cards.

Manifest also wants companies to allow shareholders to submit proxy votes up to 24 hours before annual meetings if they are not going to attend. Currently the deadline is 48 hours.

Industry faces squeeze from sterling rally

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

THE sharp rise in sterling has removed all the gains in British price competitiveness since 1992 and made British industry less competitive than during the pound's membership of the European exchange rate mechanism, according to the latest assessment of Britain's economic prospects from Oxford Economic Forecasts.

The new report buttresses growing fears among leading economists that British industry faces a damaging year as Britain acts to pre-empt inflation by raising interest rates relative to other countries.

The Oxford forecasters predict that sterling's strength will prevent a runaway consumer boom this year but also threatens to create a significant slowdown in growth in 1998 as exports and investment are squeezed and manufacturing is subdued. "While the stronger currency will help to offset the worst excesses of a consumer boom, it does so at a price," it said.

Oxford noted that sterling's rally is likely to be coupled with higher interest rates, particularly necessary to prevent overheating in the housing market. These two elements threaten to produce a significant slowdown in growth in 1998, which would

limit the next government's room for manoeuvre.

Douglas McWilliams of the Centre of Economics and Business Research suggests that sterling and continental currencies are bound to diverge further. He argues that UK base rates will reach 8 per cent by spring 1998. At the same time, weaker continental economies, with growth likely to average only 1.7 per cent this year, need interest rates to fall. This divergence would also make it impractical for Britain to join a European currency at the start even if it wanted to, he says.

Roger Bootle, the Chancellor's latest independent economic adviser, is equally alarmed. He predicts that base rates will rise by two quarter-point stages in the first half of 1997 to meet inflation threats he believes are exaggerated. Mr Bootle, chief economist at HSBC, argues that the rate rises will boost the pound further, devastating British industry by pricing exporters out of overseas markets.

Oxford predicts that base rates will rise to 7 per cent by the middle of this year, compared with the current level of 6 per cent. "We expect the Chancellor to raise interest rates by another quarter point

soon, hoping that he can avoid another rise before the election," the report said. "But whichever party is in power from May, almost their first move will have to be to tighten monetary policy further, with interest rates rising to 7 per cent by next summer."

While consumer spending is expected to rise by more than 4 per cent this year on the back of tax cuts, falling unemployment and massive windfalls, exporters face falling market shares and profit margins as a result of the double-digit appreciation in the pound over the past four months alone.

Oxford believes that overall economic growth will therefore be held back to 3.3 per cent in 1997, with underlying inflation broadly flat over the next year at around 3 per cent. In 1998 growth is predicted to slow to only 1.8 per cent.

It also forecasts that sterling's strength will lead to a deterioration in the balance of payments as exporters struggle to maintain the growth of 1996 and strong domestic demand leads to an acceleration of imports. Oxford forecasts that the current account deficit will widen from around £1 billion in 1996 to some £3.6 billion this year.

On the public finances, Oxford is forecasting a drop in the public sector borrowing requirement to £23 billion in 1997-98 and then to £16.4 billion in 1998-99.



Among the proposed new uses for the Brent Spar oil rig are a wind and wave power plant and an artificial reef

Resourceful future for Brent Spar

By Oliver August

SHELL UK hopes to announce this week a shortlist of six proposals for what to do with the unwanted Brent Spar oil platform. The shortlist comes from 30 ideas submitted last year after Shell had to abandon its original plan to ditch the giant structure amid damaging protests at home and in Germany.

The plans include using the platform as the foundation for a harbour quay in Norway and turning it into an eco-friendly wind and wave power plant or an artificial reef.

Shell received proposals from 19 leading offshore contractors and consortia. The only proposal that has already been rejected was excavating a trench in the seabed and burying the Brent Spar.

The cost of the proposals will be taken into account. Shell has indicated that it viewed re-use options, full or partial, as preferable to recycling or disposal.

Giordano faces half salary

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

RICHARD GIORDANO, chairman of British Gas, is expected to have his pay cut by half in May once he relinquishes stewardship of the soon-to-be-demerged public supply side of the business.

The American, who has endured a storm of controversy over pay and his tax arrangements, is likely to be paid about £25,000 once he lets go of the reins at Centrica, the new persons for the household gas business. His successor will be Sir Michael Perry, former chairman of Unilever.

Mr Giordano, who has presided over British Gas through some of its worst moments, including the uproar over executive pay and revelations of its exposure to costly take-or-pay fuel contracts, will leave Centrica in May.

His departure will come three months after the scheduled demerger of British Gas's supply business from its pipeline and international activities. It will also coincide with the end of the involvement of Cedric Brown, with British Gas, Mr Brown, the former

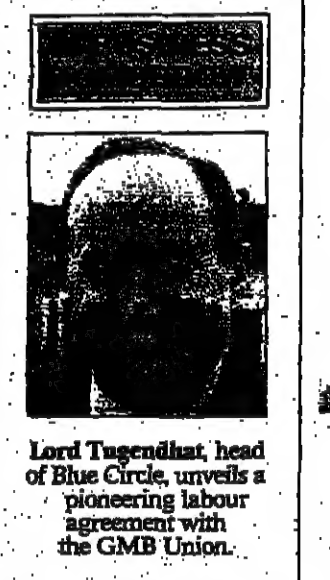
chief executive whose salary increase sparked the controversy over remuneration for utility chiefs, left last year but has since been paid £10,000 a month as a consultant to the company. The contract for that business ends in April.

Mr Brown's departure from his full-time role last year was seen by some industry watchers as a means to begin restoring British Gas's tarnished image. There have been similar mutterings about Mr Giordano, who joined the company four years ago.

Salaries of some Centrica managers will be boosted by the demerger, although Mr Giordano has said increases will be modest. Details will be revealed on Friday when Centrica's listing particulars are published.

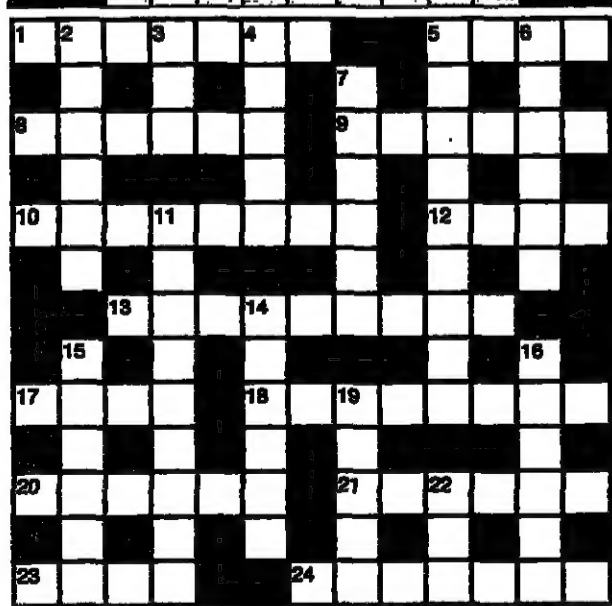
It was clear when British Gas mooted a demerger that Mr Giordano could not easily head both companies but he had initially said he would stay at Centrica for less than a year.

British Gas would not comment yesterday on the boardroom plans for Centrica.



Lord Tugendhat, head of Blue Circle, unveils a pioneering labour agreement with the GMB Union.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 983

ACROSS

- 1 Hobby (7)
- 5 Boring, cloudy (4)
- 8 Silk strip for tying, etc (6)
- 9 Filthy (stables Hercules cleaned) (6)
- 10 Sheath for sword (8)
- 12 Portent (4)
- 13 With which not to touch the hated (9)
- 17 Huge (4)
- 18 Post dance hall (8)
- 20 Spasmodic, intermittent (6)
- 21 Consternation (6)
- 23 Earth: to make dirty (4)
- 24 Navigation instrument (7)

DOWN

- 2 For each person (6)
- 3 Vesel: Swift's Tale of one (3)
- 4 Miraculous food: unexpected gift (5)
- 5 Priest's neckwear (3,6)
- 6 One taking charge (6)
- 7 Short of money (4,2)
- 11 Delighting the eye (9)
- 14 Eat fast: make turkey noise (6)
- 15 Gambling house (6)
- 16 Area of land, of knowledge (6)
- 19 House at drive entrance (5)
- 22 Pose (exam question) (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 982

- ACROSS: 1 Recital 5 Shed 9 Actor 10 Braille 11 Show business 12 Shrewd 13 Sniper 16 Mind-boggling 19 Tackler 20 Excel 21 Meek 22 Cutlery
- DOWN: 1 Roar 2 Catcher 3 Throw a wobbly 4 Labour 6 Halve 7 Dresser 8 National debt 12 Symptom 14 Panache 15 Agarie 17 Niche 18 Slay

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Coventry £30m transfer to quoted clubs team

By Jason Nisse

COVENTRY CITY, the struggling Premiership team, is to become the latest football club to join the stock market with a £30 million flotation.

The club has appointed Apex Partners to advise on the float. Apex recently put together the reverse takeover of Conrad by Sheffield United, and Glen Cooper, its corporate finance director, floated Manchester United while working at Henry Ansbacher.

Coventry plans to join the market in April, when it will be clear whether the battle against relegation has been successful or not.

The club replaced Ron Atkinson, the team manager who spent £11 million on players, with Gordon Strachan, his assistant, earlier than expected this season and it now stands 14th in the Premiership, just four points above the relegation zone.

The club is controlled by Bryan Richardson, one of the cricketing brothers who formerly played for Lancashire. Mr Richardson took control



Richardson: took control

four years ago and is now chairman. He wants to raise money to develop land around the stadium at Highfield Road in the centre of Coventry.

He has a strong board of directors, including Derek Higgs, the former merchant banker who is chairman of Prudential Portfolio Managers, and Geoffrey Robinson, the former Jaguar executive who is now a Labour MP and owner of the New Statesman.

The club has not made a profit in the 1990s. It had a turnover of £7.19 million in the year to May 1995, the last accounts that are available, but made a loss of £861,000.

A dozen teams have joined either the main market or AIM. Newcastle United plans the largest football float yet later this month, valuing it at up to £200 million.

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Survey shows changing leadership trends

Marketing offers head start

By Jon Ashworth

MARKETING has overtaken finance as the fastest route up the corporate ladder, according to a wide-ranging boardroom survey. Foreign assignments can similarly smoothe the path to the chief executive's desk, although those with tyrannical leanings may find their options limited.

Companies are increasingly looking to marketing experts to protect and expand worldwide market share, according to the survey, *Developing Leadership for the 21st Century*, published by the Economist Intelligence Unit. Of the

160 senior executives interviewed, some 37 per cent named marketing as the experience of choice. 30 per cent tipped international exposure and only 14 per cent tipped finance as the best qualification for future chief executives.

Looking ahead ten years, respondents expect customer satisfaction to replace profitability as the most important measure of a chief executive's success. Growing competition and wider global presence will also make the present style of leadership - often centred on one person at the top of a

hierarchical pyramid - increasingly counter-productive. Respondents expect the scales to tilt in favour of teams. The survey says: "business in much of the developed world still pays too much attention to the search for charismatic leadership, rather than engaging in the more difficult but less chancy task of permitting and developing leadership throughout its organisations."

Boardrooms are expected to grow increasingly diverse, with an emphasis on achievers, regardless of gender, or ethnic background.

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